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Editor SAMANTHA HART
Designer ALISON GAMM
Contributing Editor SANDRA S. SORIA
Contributing Copy Editor ANDREA COOLEY
Proofreader MARTHA COLOFF LONG
Administrative Assistant CHRISTINA SNYDER

FOOD
Executive Editor SHELLI MCCONNELL
Senior Content Manager JESSICA SAARI CHRISTENSEN
Senior Editor CAITLYN DIIMIG, RD
Editor MADALYN BENDGEN
Senior Brand Manager JULI HALE
Brand Manager SARAH BREKKE, M.S.
Culinary Specialist EMILY NIENHAUS
Senior Food Stylist KELSEY MOYLAN
Senior Food Stylist and Coordinator LAUREN MCANELLY
Food Stylists HOLLY DREESMAN, ANNIE PROBST

HOME, GARDEN & QUILTING
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Editor DORIS BRUNNETTE
Senior Associate Editor EMILY ELVERU
Associate Editor SAMANTHA STEVENSON
Better Homes & Gardens Test Garden® Manager
SANDRA GERDES

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Style & Design Director STEPHANIE HUNTER
Art Directors NIKKI SANDERS, ELIZABETH STUMBO
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Workflow and Sets Director TERRI CHARTER
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Associate Director, Premedia Imaging MICHAEL STURTZ
Color Quality Analyst RYAN C. MEIER

CONTRIBUTING FIELD EDITORS
Atlanta **Lisa Mowry** Baltimore **Eileen Deymier** Birmingham, AL **Cathy Still McGowin** Charleston, SC/Savannah **Sandra L. Mohlmann** Charlotte/San Diego **Andrea Caughey** Chatham, MA **Karin Lidbeck-Brent** Chicago **Elaine Markoutsas** Denver **Mindy Pantiel, Elaine St. Louis** Detroit/Toronto **Khristi S. Zimmeth** Danbury, CT **Stacy Kunstel** Houston **Jessica Brinkert Holtam** Los Angeles **Darra Baker, Laura Hull, Robin Tucker** Minneapolis/St. Paul **Bonnie Broten, Heidi Pearson** Nashville **Anna Forkum** New Orleans **Kimberly Clarke, Margaret Zainey Roux** New Paltz, NY **Anna Molvik** Newport, RI **Lynda Sutton** Portland, ME **Susan Salomon** Richmond, VA **Paige Porter Fischer** San Diego **Karen Reinecke** San Francisco **Sarah Alba** Seagrove, FL **Eleanor Lynn Nesmith** Seattle **Linda Humphrey** Washington, D.C. **Jeanne Blackburn**

FOR EDITORIAL QUESTIONS, EMAIL MEREDITH.PREMIUMPUBLISHING@MEREDITH.COM
OR WRITE US AT *FLEA MARKET DECORATING*,
PREMIUM PUBLISHING,
1716 LOCUST ST., DES MOINES, IA 50309-3023

PREMIUM PUBLISHING
Vice President & General Manager
JEREMY BILOON
Vice President, Group Editorial Director
STEPHEN ORR
Director, Editorial Operations & Finance
GREG KAYKO

Executive Director, Business Development & Partnerships MEGAN PEARLMAN
Associate Director, Business Development & Partnerships NINA REED
Senior Director, Brand Marketing JEAN KENNEDY
Associate Director, Brand Marketing
KATHERINE BARNET

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION
Business Director JENNA BATES
Senior Business Manager LISA CARLSON

CIRCULATION
Consumer Marketing Managers
LYNN BOLINGER, ED LICHINSKY

ADVERTISING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

American Patchwork & Quilting
Senior Vice President & General Manager
TIM FISHER
tfisher@dotdashmdp.com
Senior Vice President & Group Publisher
MARK JOSEPHSON
mark.josephson@dotdashmdp.com
Sales Promotion Manager BETHANY PETERSON
bethany.peterson@dotdashmdp.com

Do It Yourself
Sales Promotion Manager BETHANY PETERSON
bethany.peterson@dotdashmdp.com
Account Executive
BRIAN KOSSACK
brian.kossack@woodmagazine.com

Home
Senior Vice President & Group Publisher
DAREN MAZZUCCA
daren.mazzucca@dotdashmdp.com
Brand Homes Director
NICOLE HENDRICK
nicole.hendrick@dotdashmdp.com

Food & Holiday
Senior Vice President & Group Publisher
MARK JOSEPHSON
mark.josephson@dotdashmdp.com
Account Director
MICHELLE BUTLER-MINGEY
michelle.butler-mingey@dotdashmdp.com

ADVERTISING OPERATIONS
1716 Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50309-3023
Production Director PATRICK MCGOWAN
Senior Production Manager, Country Home
JULIE STREHLOW
Production Managers KYLE DIRKS, APRIL GROSS, ASHLEY SCHAUBROECK

DIRECT MEDIA
Executive Director TYLER HUB
tyler.hub@dotdashmdp.com

DOTDASH MEREDITH
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FROM THE editors

Ready, set ... collect!! We've primed you for peak flea market season by filling this issue with page after page of practical information and inspiring ideas. To get you going, we turned to collecting pros for advice on what to buy and where to find it. And to get you dreaming, we loaded this issue with inspiring ideas for decorating with your finds once you get them home.

We checked in with a variety of vintage lovers across the country—designers, dealers, thrifty shoppers, and clever home decorators. For instance, we tapped Texas interior designer and super shopper Courtney Warren to guide us around the granddaddy of all flea markets—the Round Top Antiques Show *(page 88)*. She shares the inside track for shopping the sprawling show, along with tips for what to collect now.

We also tour several homes where vintage pieces take center stage. For one, wait until you meet Megan Brokman *(page 20)*. This Pennsylvania shop owner and her husband rehabbed a derelict farmhouse into an airy home that showcases well-curated collections.

We put the spotlight, too, on hot vintage categories to collect now, including tableware and textiles. But you won't find these vintage beauties behind glass doors; they're pulled into use throughout the home, from front porch parties to backyard gardens. After all, the true joy of collecting is not merely in looking at your treasured finds, but in living with them.

Happy hunting—and happy finding!

The Editors

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HUNTER *gatherers*

trend spotting

Caning is hot, but it's expensive to rehab damage. These stools were a triple threat: perfect condition, classic styling, and counter height (ideal for island seating).

Saturday morning transforms these design aficionados into intrepid flea market explorers. They divulge their tips to get the most out of your next excursion.

WRITTEN BY KATY KIICK CONDON **PHOTOGRAPHED BY** REBEKAH MOLLOY
ILLUSTRATIONS BY RACHEL KING BIRCH

> “LIKE ART, *vintage is so personal.* WE TRY TO GO QUIRKY, NOT CREEPY. YOU DON’T WANT YOUR GUESTS TO CRINGE.”
>
> — KIM DAUNIS

Natalie Papier, *opposite left,* doesn’t mind when things get a little weird. She built her Charlotte interior design business, Home Ec., by catering to clients who want to introduce a playful note into otherwise traditional or modern spaces. Together with BFF and frequent design collaborator, Kim Daunis, she scours flea markets for an eclectic range of furniture and accessories that will amplify her clients’ personalities. The hunt can be a bit needle-in-a-haystack, so they stay focused on buying for quality and charming character. They took us to one of their favorite haunts, the Kane County Flea Market outside Chicago, and shared what to look for, how to bargain, and a few other pro tips that will change the way you explore your local market. ◆

For resources, see page 94.

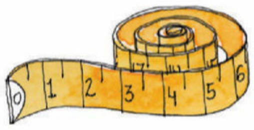
YOUR MARKET GO BAG

A well-stocked flea marketing kit will make sure you’re prepared to wheel and deal.

SPF 50
SUN BLOCK

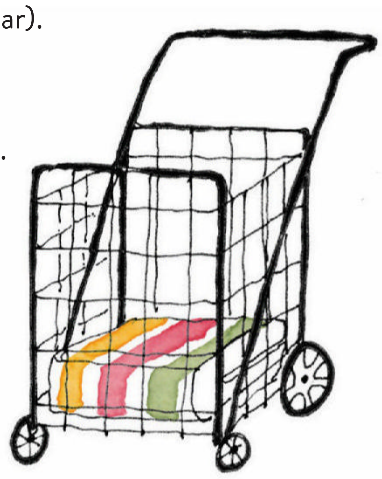
PROTECTION: Don’t forget your hat and sunscreen for outdoor affairs.

BAG IN A BAG: Roll up an extra tote to carry small buys.



TAPE MEASURE: Determine if your find will fit your space (and into your car).

WATER AND SNACKS: Treasure hunting requires stamina.



CART: Keep a collapsible set of wheels in your trunk for rolling out heavy purchases.

WHERE TO START?

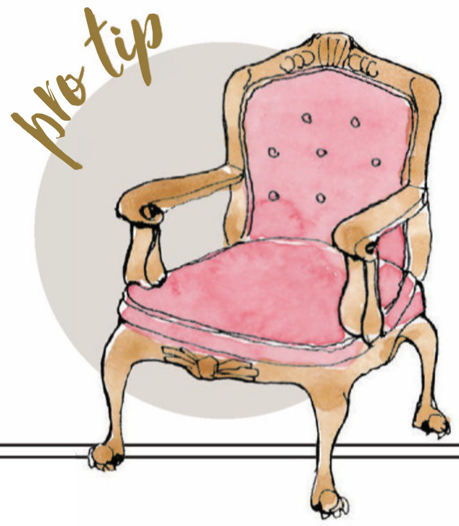
In the middle!

"We make a point not to skip any areas," Kim says, "but at the start of the day we bypass the beginning booths because they're the busiest. We start in the middle so we can talk to sellers and get more attention."

pro tip
5
FIVE
5
DOLLARS
20

CASH IS KING!
Many dealers take credit cards, but some are more flexible about prices when you pay cash.

Ask vendors to stash large purchases for you so you don't have to lug them around. Remember to note where you left everything.



THE ART OF HAGGLING

"Don't look at your conversations with vendors as merely transactional. You're building a relationship with someone you'll probably see again," Kim says.

Q&A: Start by chatting, asking questions, and getting the backstory on objects you like. A good story is part of the personality vintage items can bring to a home.

SHOP THE BOOTH: If you buy more than one thing, you have more leverage for bargaining.

RESEARCH: Look up what similar items are selling for online, and never pay as much as Etsy or other curated online shops are charging. Start by offering about half the online retail price.

NEGOTIATE: Vendors expect some back-and-forth. Have your goal price in mind, but always ask their price first. You never know, they may ask way less than expected.

BE PATIENT: At market close, vendors often prefer making a deal rather than carting everything home.

STOP
Coca-Cola
ROXY
SINGER

SHOPPING STRATEGIES

“Some people seek out certain collectibles or brands. For us, it really comes down to if something makes us happy,” Natalie Papier says. From there, keep in mind their buy vs. skip rules.

TEXTILES: For rugs, some wear is good, but tears and holes aren’t. Other nonstarters: stains and smells. Vintage upholstered furniture is high on their list, but it has got to be in great condition or easy to re-cover, like a bench. It can be expensive to re-cover something like a sofa.

WOOD: There’s a fine line between aged and junky. Patina or a few dings are OK, but pass if something is really wobbly or has chipped veneer. Look inside drawers for dovetail joints, a sign of quality.

ALWAYS SKIP: Transformed furniture. Don’t pay for someone else’s idea.

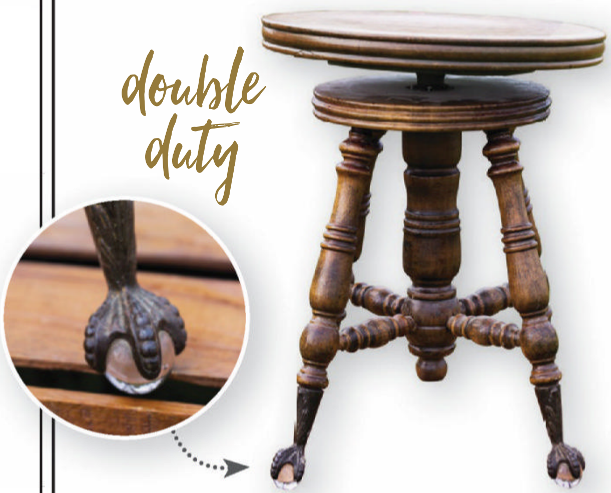
ALWAYS BUY: A great-looking trunk, *right*. Besides extra storage, it works as a nightstand or coffee table. Give it the smell test: Musty odors? Skip it.

> “*Buy what you love* RIGHT AWAY. THE THINGS YOU QUESTION, GO BACK AT THE END AND NEGOTIATE.”
>
> — NATALIE PAPIER

The exit sign will be rewired for a mudroom. The trophy is on-trend brass and a ready-made talking point.

TOP FINDS

double duty



This piano bench has unusual feet. Plus, it’ll work as a plant stand, something the duo always looks for, along with planters and pots.

green light

Jump on unique light fixtures. Rewiring is cheap and easy to do with a kit, and it’s a cinch to replace bad or missing shades.

collecting BY HEART

We poked around to see what's hot in the world of vintage and got some familiar and surprising answers. Here's what's having a moment, along with creative ways to live with your treasures. And remember, no matter what's hot and what's not, you'll never go wrong if you buy what you love!

WRITTEN BY SANDRA S. SORIA **PHOTOGRAPHED BY** JOHN GRANEN
PRODUCED BY JANNA LUFKIN

« WICKER

THE GOODS: This inviting porch features a collection of standout wicker antiques, starting with two anchor pieces—a classic Lloyd Loom rocker painted black and a French traveling trunk. Wicker-wrapped bottles are joined by the unique cane-covered vessel—used as a vase—that sits atop a midcentury rattan ottoman.

WAYS TO DISPLAY: For broad collecting categories such as wicker, it's all about the visual mix of styles, eras, and techniques, along with the function of an individual item. Pull a grouping together into one space for the "wow" factor—as this Seattle porch beautifully illustrates—or weave wicker's natural warmth and texture around your home piece by piece, adding eye-tickling design contrast wherever they go.

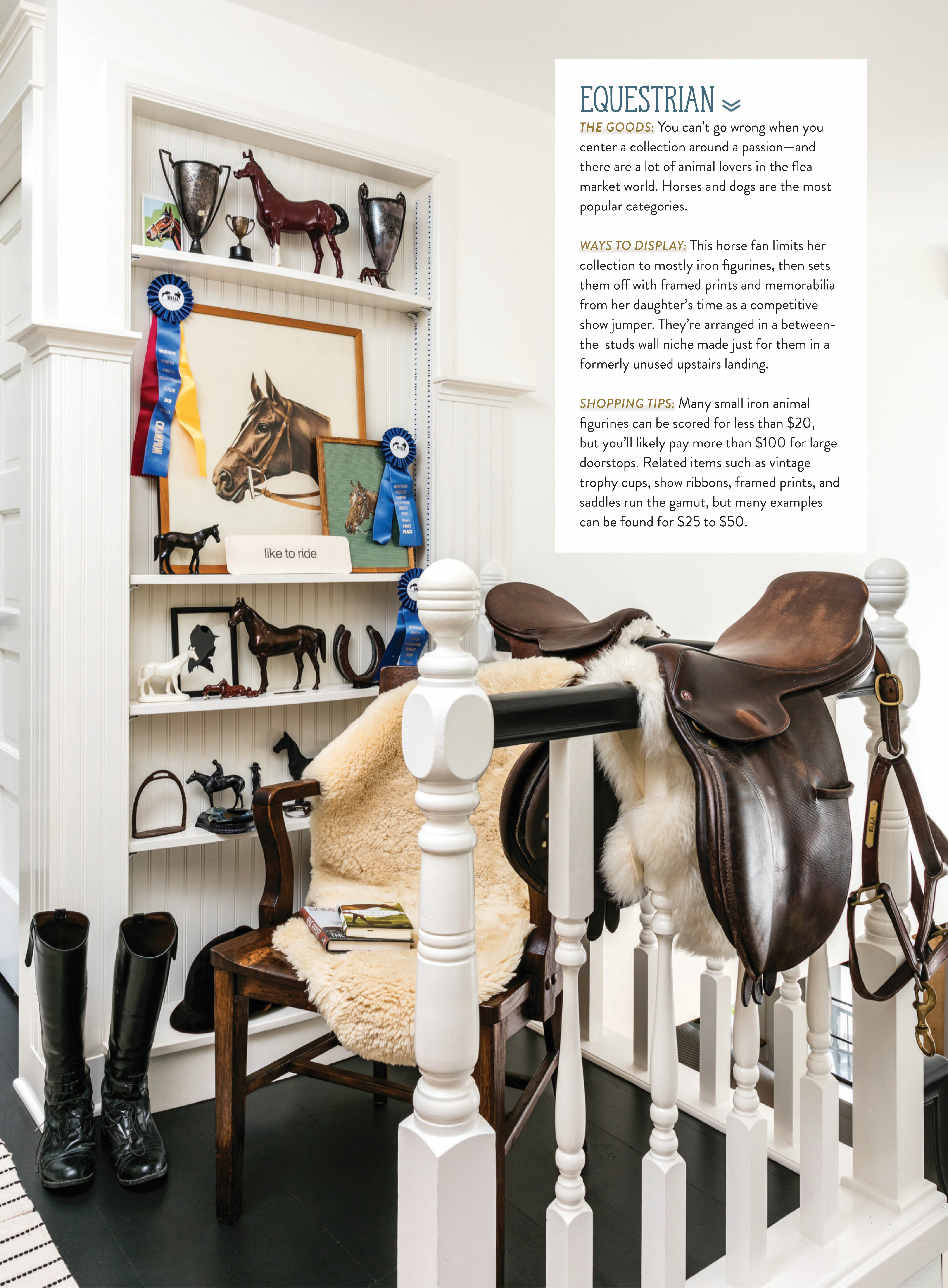
SHOPPING TIPS: If you want a wicker piece for sitting—or rocking!—check for structural integrity in both frame and wicker. It can be hard to repair or restore wicker once it begins to go. Paint won't detract from the price, unless there are so many coats the wicker's textural beauty has vanished. Still widely available, wicker-wrapped demijohns and jugs can still be found for less than $75, but unique pieces such as a thermos or decanter will pull more than $100. Another hot subcategory includes French dry baskets or trunks. In top condition, the trunk featured here can demand several hundred dollars.

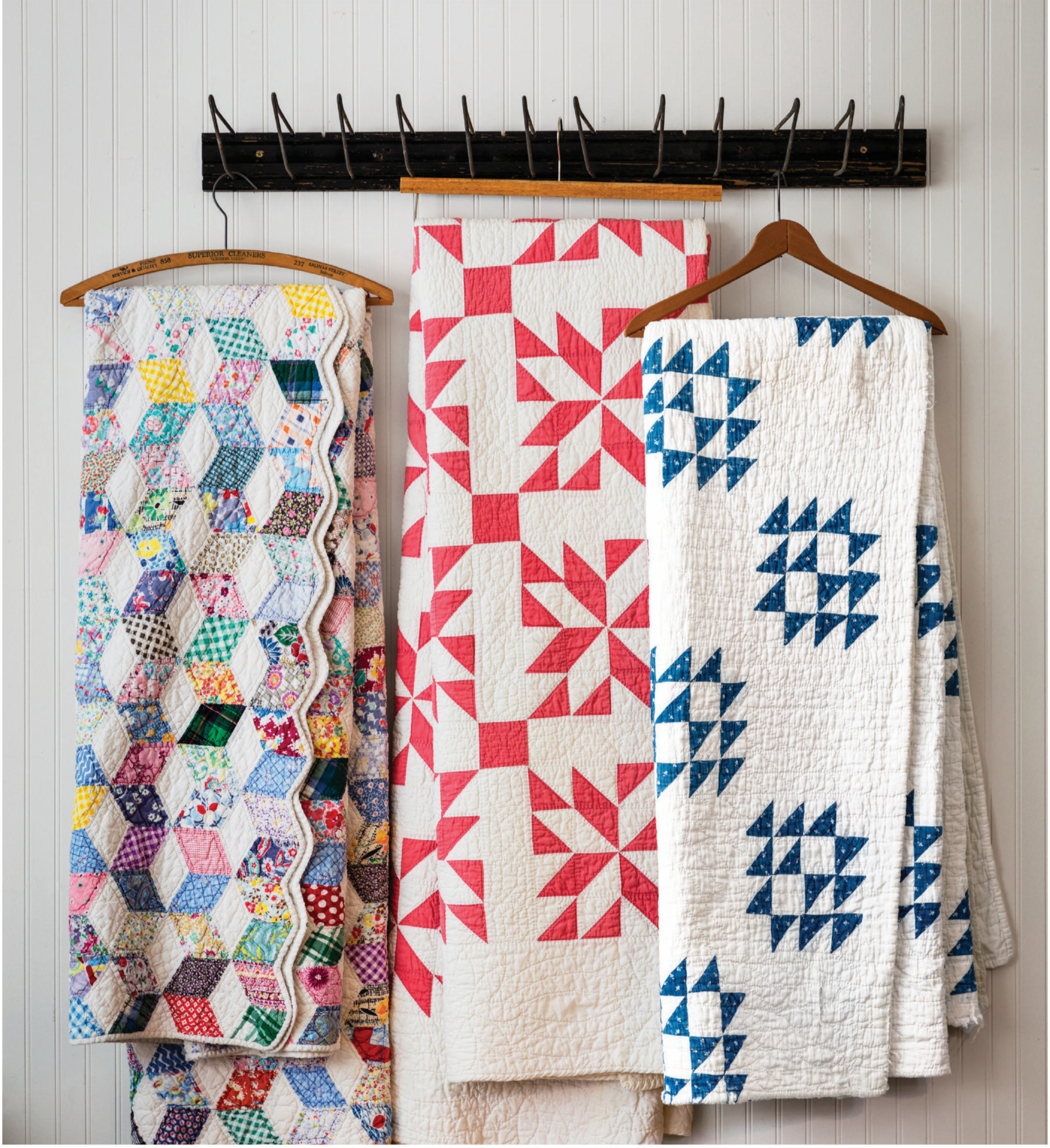
EQUESTRIAN

THE GOODS: You can't go wrong when you center a collection around a passion—and there are a lot of animal lovers in the flea market world. Horses and dogs are the most popular categories.

WAYS TO DISPLAY: This horse fan limits her collection to mostly iron figurines, then sets them off with framed prints and memorabilia from her daughter's time as a competitive show jumper. They're arranged in a between-the-studs wall niche made just for them in a formerly unused upstairs landing.

SHOPPING TIPS: Many small iron animal figurines can be scored for less than $20, but you'll likely pay more than $100 for large doorstops. Related items such as vintage trophy cups, show ribbons, framed prints, and saddles run the gamut, but many examples can be found for $25 to $50.





QUILTS

THE GOODS: Cottagecore is a cozy trend started by young homemakers and influencers who have discovered the resourceful home arts of their grandmas' era. This means quilts are finding a new generation of fans. While two-color quilts are always popular—they work into a variety of decorating schemes and add a graphic punch—whole-cloth and other utilitarian quilts are now valued because they can be used or repurposed.

WAYS TO DISPLAY: Valuable quilts are best displayed folded or stacked away from sunlight. If you hang a quilt, do it in a way that doesn't stress the stitching. Draped over vintage wood hangers and hung from a vintage display piece from a retail tire business, these vivid beauties add art and softness to a room. Refold or rehang quilts often to avoid uneven wear.

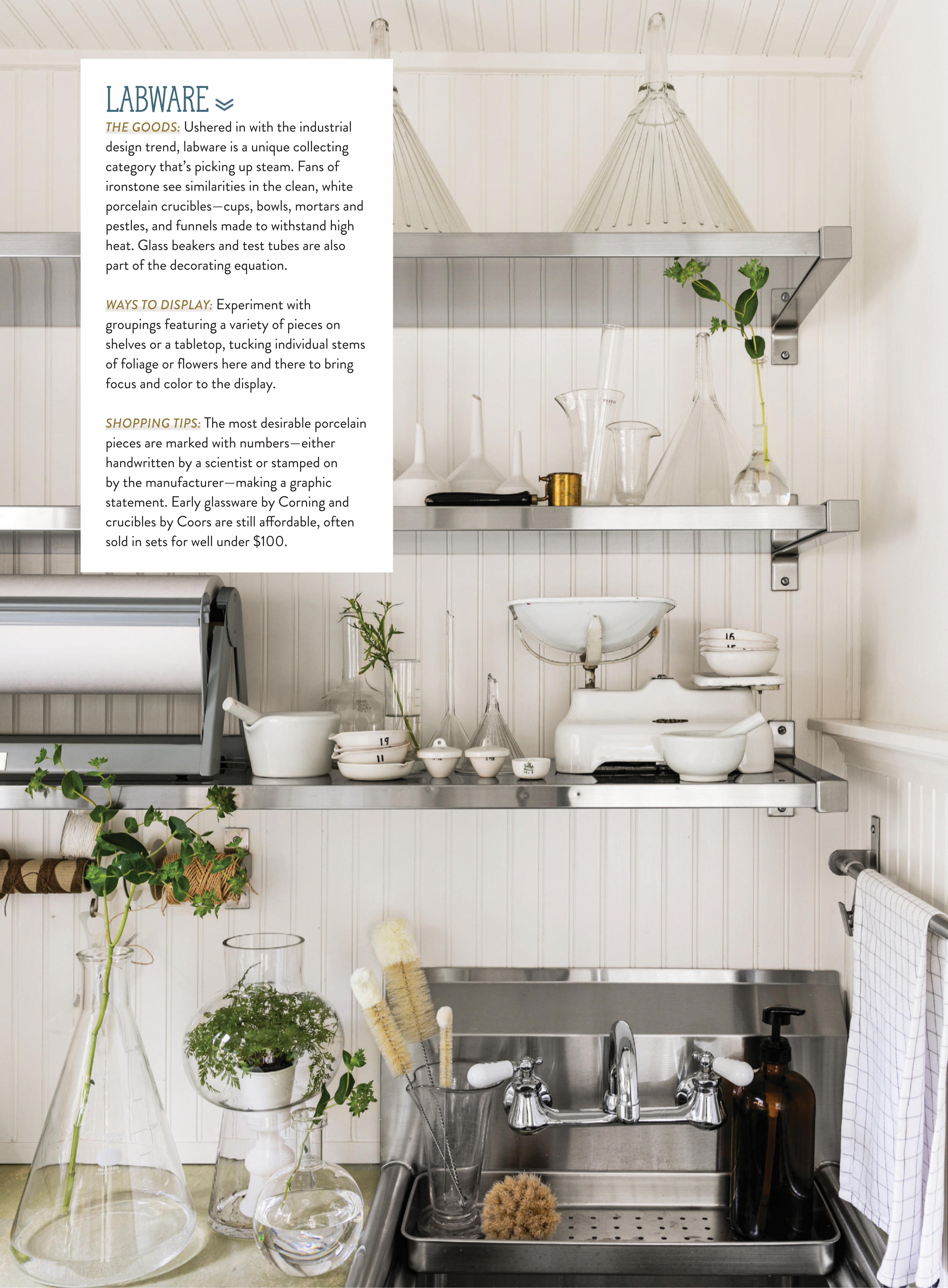
SHOPPING TIPS: We asked Iowa quilt expert Jody Sanders how to judge the value of a quilt. She considers condition (intact fabric and no color fading), intricacy of pattern, certifiable age and provenance, and technique (hand-quilted and stitched is the best). But, bottom line, here's what moves her to purchase a quilt: "I love it!" Most quilts are now priced between $100 to $300—less for whole-cloth, knotted, or slightly worn examples. Before paying top dollar for one you've fallen for, do your research on evaluating an individual quilt and buy from a reputable source.

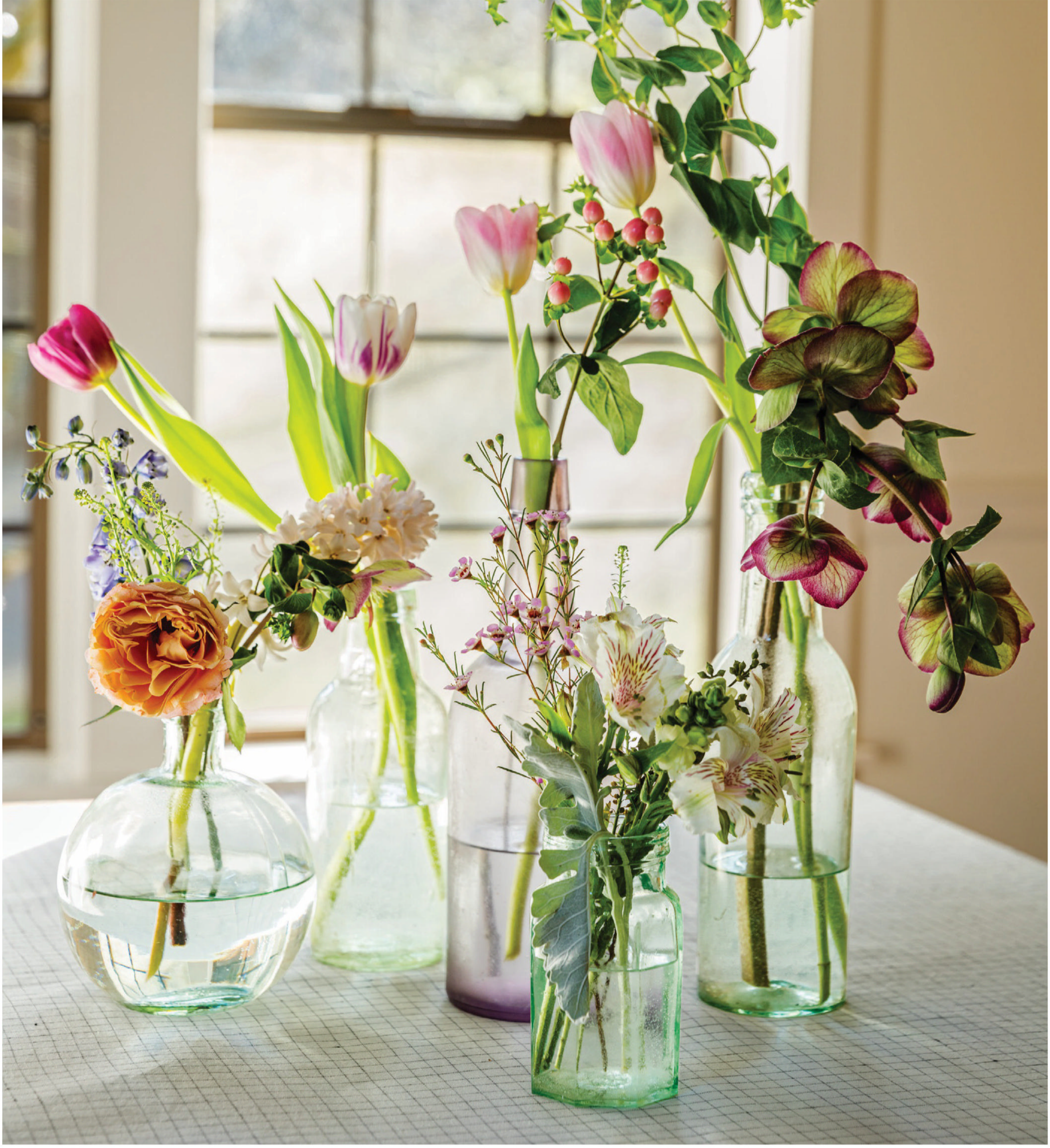
LABWARE

THE GOODS: Ushered in with the industrial design trend, labware is a unique collecting category that's picking up steam. Fans of ironstone see similarities in the clean, white porcelain crucibles—cups, bowls, mortars and pestles, and funnels made to withstand high heat. Glass beakers and test tubes are also part of the decorating equation.

WAYS TO DISPLAY: Experiment with groupings featuring a variety of pieces on shelves or a tabletop, tucking individual stems of foliage or flowers here and there to bring focus and color to the display.

SHOPPING TIPS: The most desirable porcelain pieces are marked with numbers—either handwritten by a scientist or stamped on by the manufacturer—making a graphic statement. Early glassware by Corning and crucibles by Coors are still affordable, often sold in sets for well under $100.



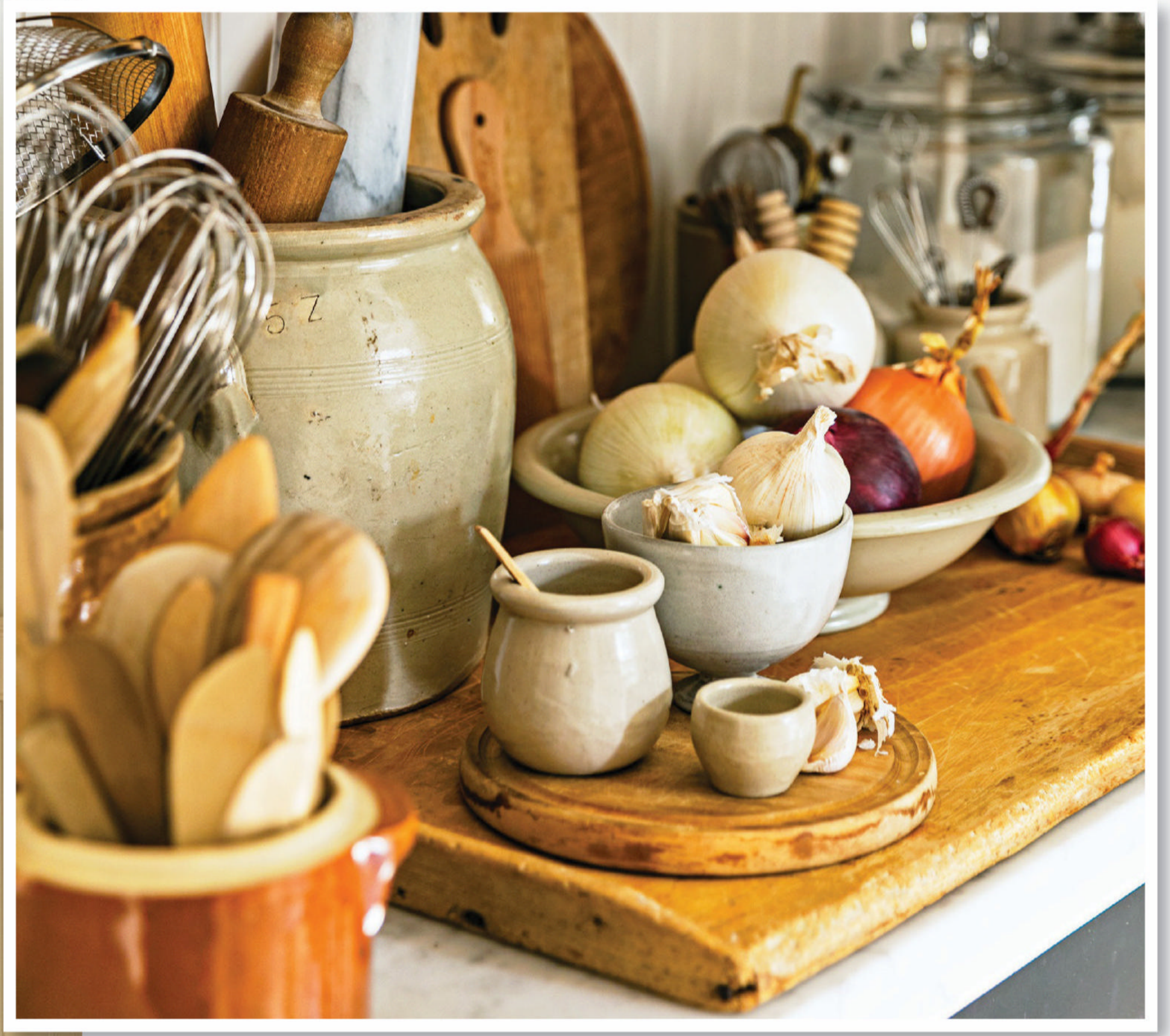


BOTTLES AND JARS

THE GOODS: From old canning jars to medicine bottles and inkwells, vintage glass vessels remain a clear favorite among collectors. Perhaps the most coveted category is lavender glass, made purple by exposure to the sun.

WAYS TO DISPLAY: Let glass vessels sparkle by parading them along a windowsill or clustering the pieces as a tabletop centerpiece. Give the pieces some air to show off their unique shapes and colors. Grace them with simple clippings from the garden or deconstruct a store-bought bouquet and enjoy the blooms stem by stem in separate bottles. To prevent small pieces from getting lost in a space, corral them on a tray for more impact.

SHOPPING TIPS: You can tell the difference between machine-made and handmade bottles by looking for thick glass (which is often wavy), a seam line, and a few bubbles. Lavender glass demands a premium price because only pieces made with manganese turn purple, indicating the glass was made prior to 1915 when most companies swapped this clearing agent for selenium. Bottles are easy finds at flea markets and thrift shops. “Ink bottles, medicine bottles, cod liver oil bottles—these are the kinds of smalls you might find in big boxes and sold in bulk,” says stylist and longtime collector Matthew Mead. Pieces embossed with a brand name command a higher price, but many pieces are still sold for less than $10. Quality canning jars and lavender glass can cost well over $25.



« CROCKERY

THE GOODS: Salt-glazed stoneware is pottery with a translucent glaze and a slightly pocked or orange-peel texture, created by throwing salt in the kiln. Used in Europe for centuries, affordable and utilitarian glazed stoneware became the dominant houseware in the U.S. from 1780 to 1890. The watertight pieces stored everything from meat to pickles. By the early 1900s, some companies mass-produced stoneware with a smooth white glaze, with most pieces lacking the graceful silhouettes and elaborate markings of early salt-glazed stoneware.

WAYS TO DISPLAY: These sturdy, functional pieces seem most in their element on a counter or in a pantry, where they can organize produce, utensils, and other necessities while adding rustic, handmade charm. Crocks were manufactured for centuries, so a variety of shapes, colors, and sizes are on the market.

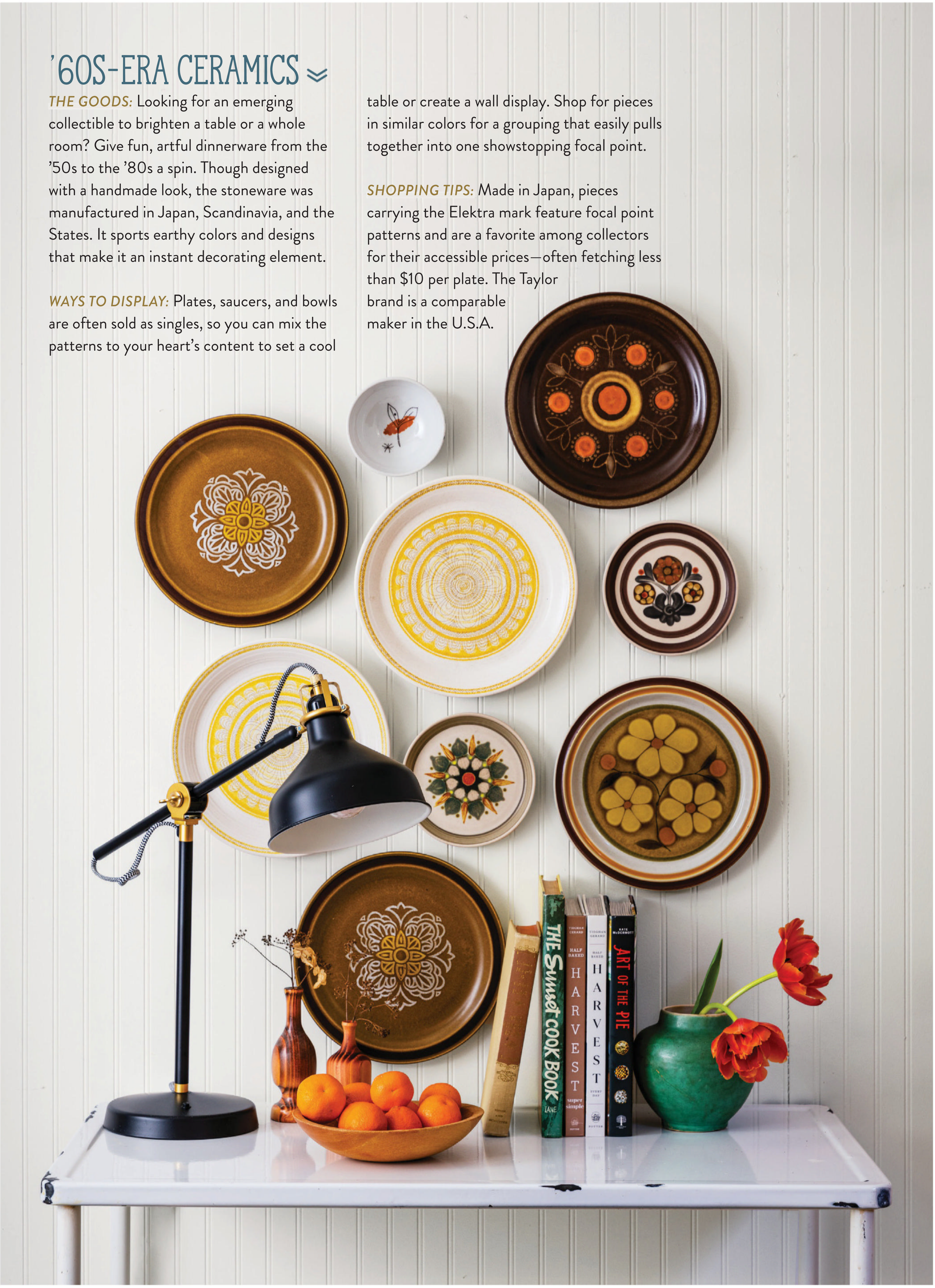
SHOPPING TIPS: Unmarked pieces without the lid fetch less than $50; early European pieces with provenance will snag hundreds of dollars. Prices are determined by maker, age, size, and condition, but so many beautiful pieces can be found for far less, making it fun to amass a varied collection as shown here.

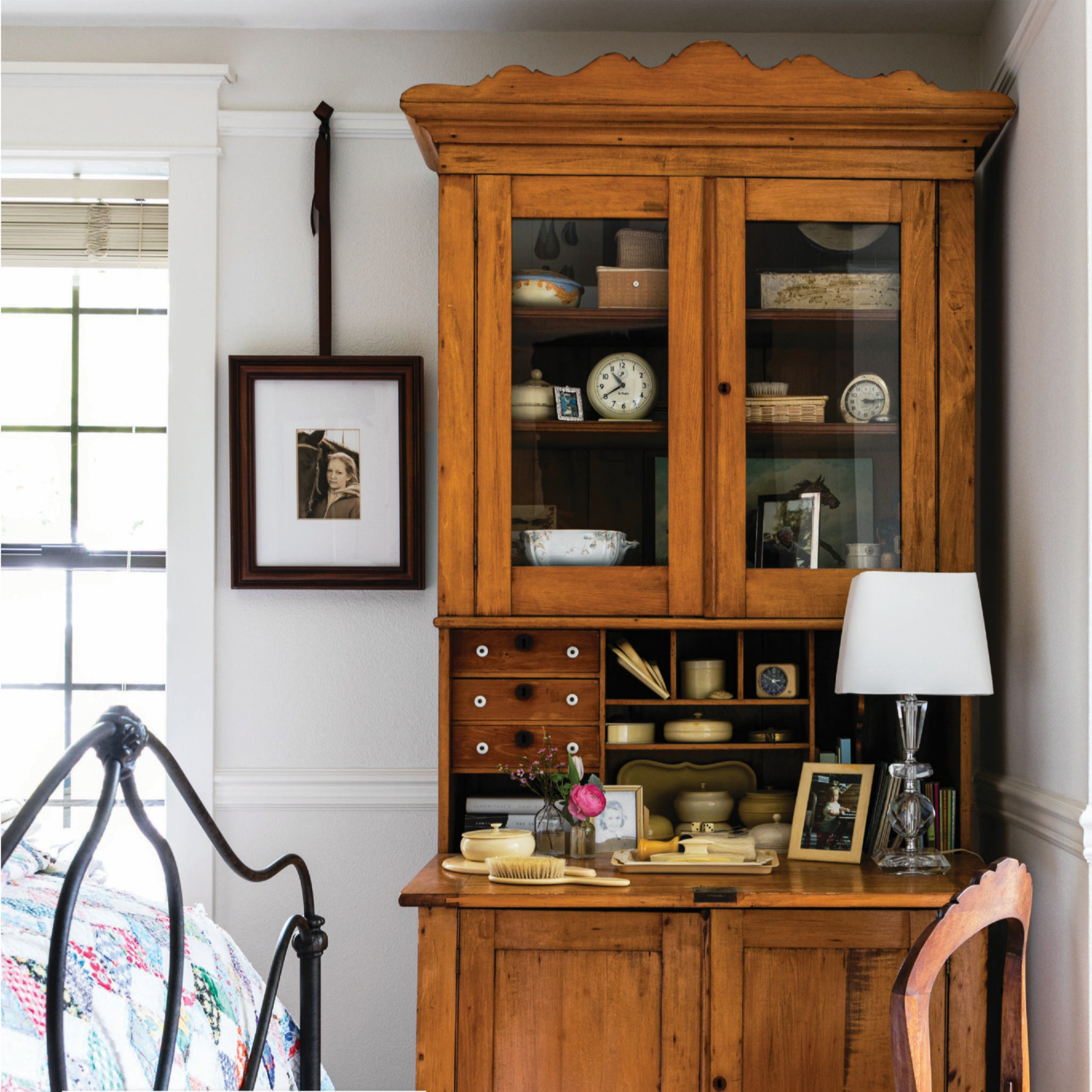
’60S-ERA CERAMICS

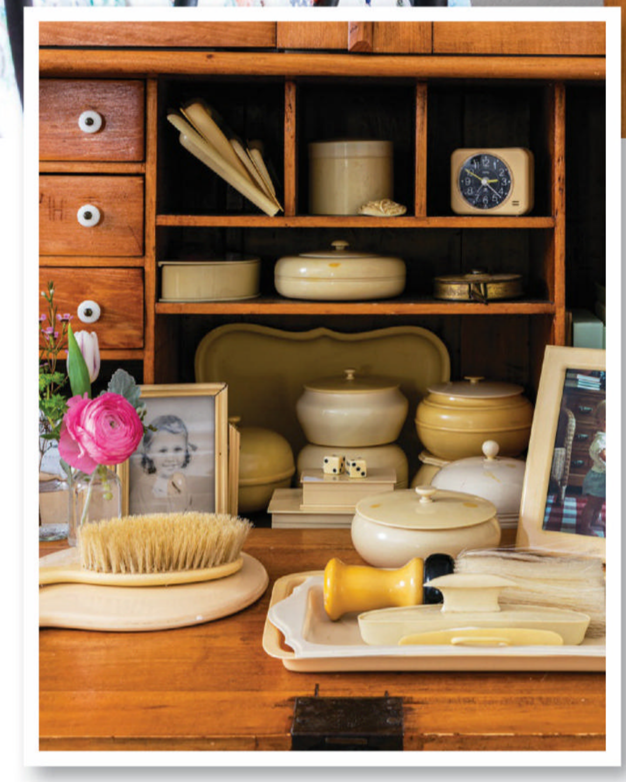
THE GOODS: Looking for an emerging collectible to brighten a table or a whole room? Give fun, artful dinnerware from the ’50s to the ’80s a spin. Though designed with a handmade look, the stoneware was manufactured in Japan, Scandinavia, and the States. It sports earthy colors and designs that make it an instant decorating element.

WAYS TO DISPLAY: Plates, saucers, and bowls are often sold as singles, so you can mix the patterns to your heart’s content to set a cool table or create a wall display. Shop for pieces in similar colors for a grouping that easily pulls together into one showstopping focal point.

SHOPPING TIPS: Made in Japan, pieces carrying the Elektra mark feature focal point patterns and are a favorite among collectors for their accessible prices—often fetching less than $10 per plate. The Taylor brand is a comparable maker in the U.S.A.







FRENCH IVORY

THE GOODS: First things first: These dresser sets are neither French nor ivory. “French Ivory” was a trade name given to the mass-produced celluloid pieces to up their cachet. Celluloid was a lightweight plastic invented in the mid-1800s. The creamy material looked and felt like real ivory but was lighter in weight and without the awful backstory. Sets might include powder boxes, nail buffers, mirrors, brushes, and trays.

WAYS TO DISPLAY: Featuring shades from cream to mellow yellow, the pieces can be easily massed for impact or mixed with other pieces. Longtime collector Janna Lufkin has been adding to her collection since childhood, and loves how they look in the cubbies of an antique pine drop-leaf desk.

SHOPPING TIPS: Celluloid is initially durable but can chip, crack, and crumble over time, so buyer beware. Fanciful Victorian-era sets in prime condition carry price tags of $200 or more, but most range from $25 to $75 and individual pieces abound for less than $10.

A CLEAN SLATE

What happens when a country girl and a city boy meet? They buy a rundown, circa 1867 farmhouse in Pennsylvania and return it to its earlier glory.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY ANDREA CAUGHEY
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAY WILDE
STYLED BY LACEY HOWARD

ABOVE: Megan and Neal Brokman have been literally peeling back the layers of their 19th-century farmhouse. "Our poor house was covered by not one, but two, types of siding—Insulbrick and then aluminum." Megan says. "We've been painstakingly removing those layers and restoring the original clapboard underneath." *RIGHT:* Megan prefers white, airy interiors, which she creates with white furnishings, paint, and favorite flea market finds. "Mirrors add depth and light to a room. I often score them for just a few bucks," she says. "This room was originally paneled and had a drop ceiling—the most disgusting space in the house!"

“Old things move me, NOT JUST BECAUSE OF HOW WELL THEY ARE MADE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THEIR STORY.”

— **HOMEOWNER** MEGAN BROKMAN

Megan Brokman, a native of Harmony, Pennsylvania, and her husband, Neal, a Brooklyn boy, had their fill of city life right after college. “It was torture!” Megan says. “We knew the quiet country life would suit us better, with privacy and a place for our children to play outside. Neal is a mathematician who loves to solve problems. I’m an antiques dealer. We both crave learning new things and getting our hands dirty and wanted the challenge of buying an historic fixer farmhouse that needed lots of work.”

The craving turned into a house hunt. And after a few years of sleuthing, the Brokmans found their sow’s ear. They knew it was the one, bucking the advice of family, Realtors, and neighbors who pegged it as a teardown. Even Megan admits, the first glimpses were not pretty. “It was *soooo* dark inside, with big rooms divided into tiny ones,” she says. “It had few windows, dropped ceilings, brown everything, and was filthy beyond belief. The floors were crooked and there was not a single plumb line. Walls were crumbling and filled with critters.”

ABOVE RIGHT: Vintage pieces tell a story here. “The crock and most of the rolling pins are hand-me-downs from my mom,” Megan says. “She is an amazing cook and baker, and I’ve learned to be one because of her.” ***RIGHT:*** Megan loves the patina and practicality of old cutting boards; she displays them and uses them for entertaining. ***OPPOSITE:*** After removing the drop ceiling to reveal original timber, the couple brightened the dining room with white beaded board. Nantucket-style, fan-back Windsor chairs add graceful lines and the warmth of wood.

> “I HAVE A PASSION FOR TAKING BROKEN AND DISCARDED THINGS IN LIFE AND *making them beautiful.*”
>
> — MEGAN BROKMAN

COLLECT IT

White ironstone is a collecting staple that never falls out of favor. Loved for the mellow luster of its glazes and its simple forms, ironstone adds history to a room without adding busy color or pattern. Ironstone actually doesn't have any iron in it; rather it was given that label because of its durability. It's thanks to that durability that there are many pieces available to collect today. Research ironstone markings to know what you're buying.

OPPOSITE: Wicker baskets and trunks are a favorite of Megan's. Like many of the items this dealer brings home, they look great and work hard. "Utilitarian things with texture like these baskets and old file drawers keep us organized yet offer a fun nod to the past," she says. *LEFT:* The Brokmans take cues from their home's origins when they remodel. "We fall for simple farmhouse kitchens over fussy spaces with expensive countertops and backsplashes," Megan says. "It's all about saluting our home's humble roots."

Undeterred, the couple went to work, removing decaying exterior siding, paneling, moldy wallpaper, and old linoleum. They also jacked up the house, put in a new foundation and pulled up floors. All the toil had its rewards, including the discovery of hardwood floors, original beams, and timber framing. "Once the layers were gone," Megan says, "we tore down walls that had accumulated over the years, allowing more light and better flow. The payback was a more open and livable floor plan for our family."

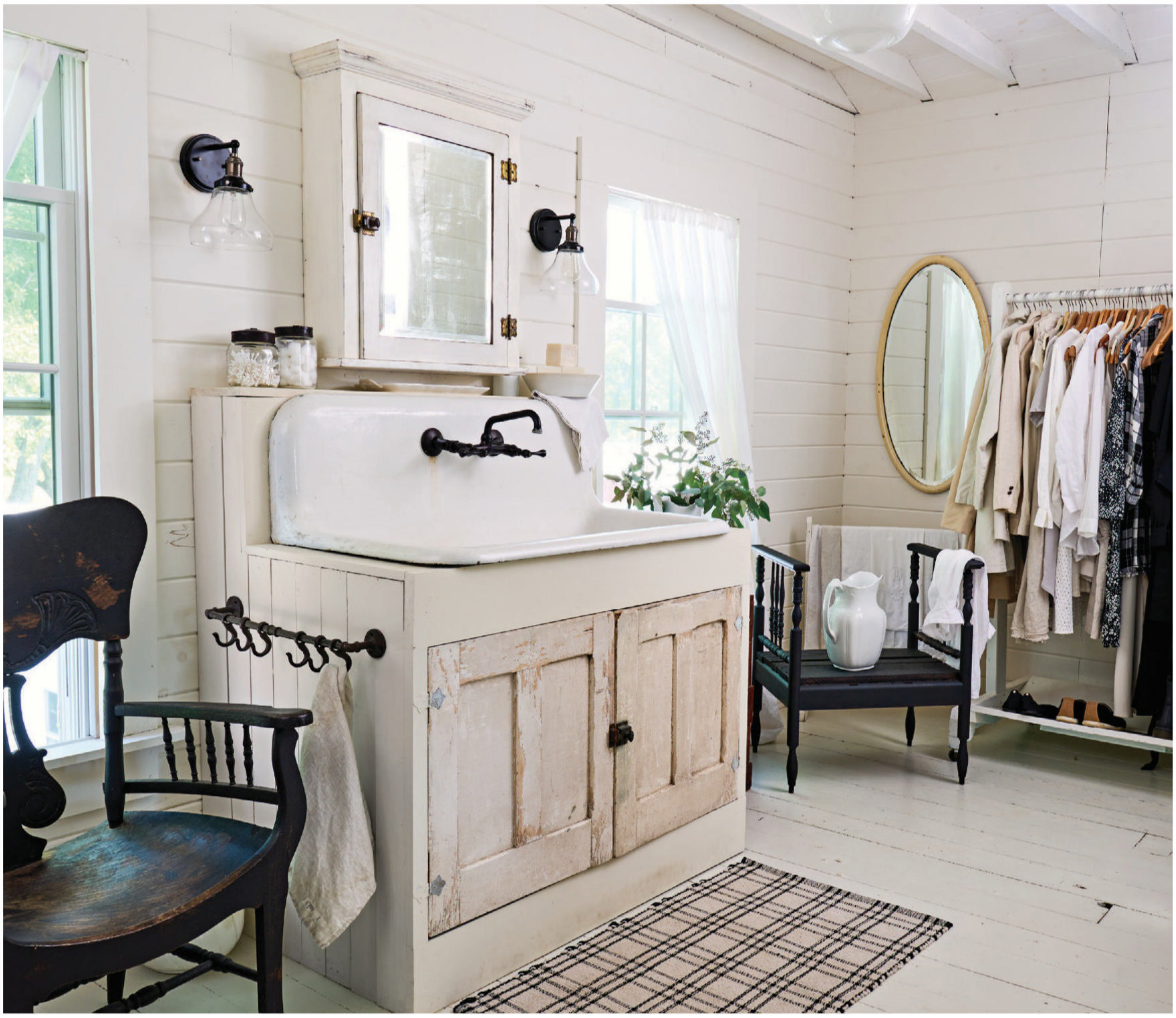
To bounce even more light around the rooms, the two installed new windows and beaded-board paneling, and painted the brown shiny trim a crisp white. Against the clean backdrop, decorating the farmhouse was a cinch. Through her antiques shop, Farmhouse Supply, which she established in an old general store in rural Pennsylvania, Megan also was able to forage for just the right finishing touches from an inventory that includes antiques, refinished furniture, linens, home decor, and salvage. "I adore a simple palette reminiscent of the past," Megan says. "My go-tos are woods, whites, and things with texture—linens, beadboard, baskets—and flowers and plants. I also love worn, primitive furniture with clean lines like farm tables and cupboards, some of which Neal has built himself."

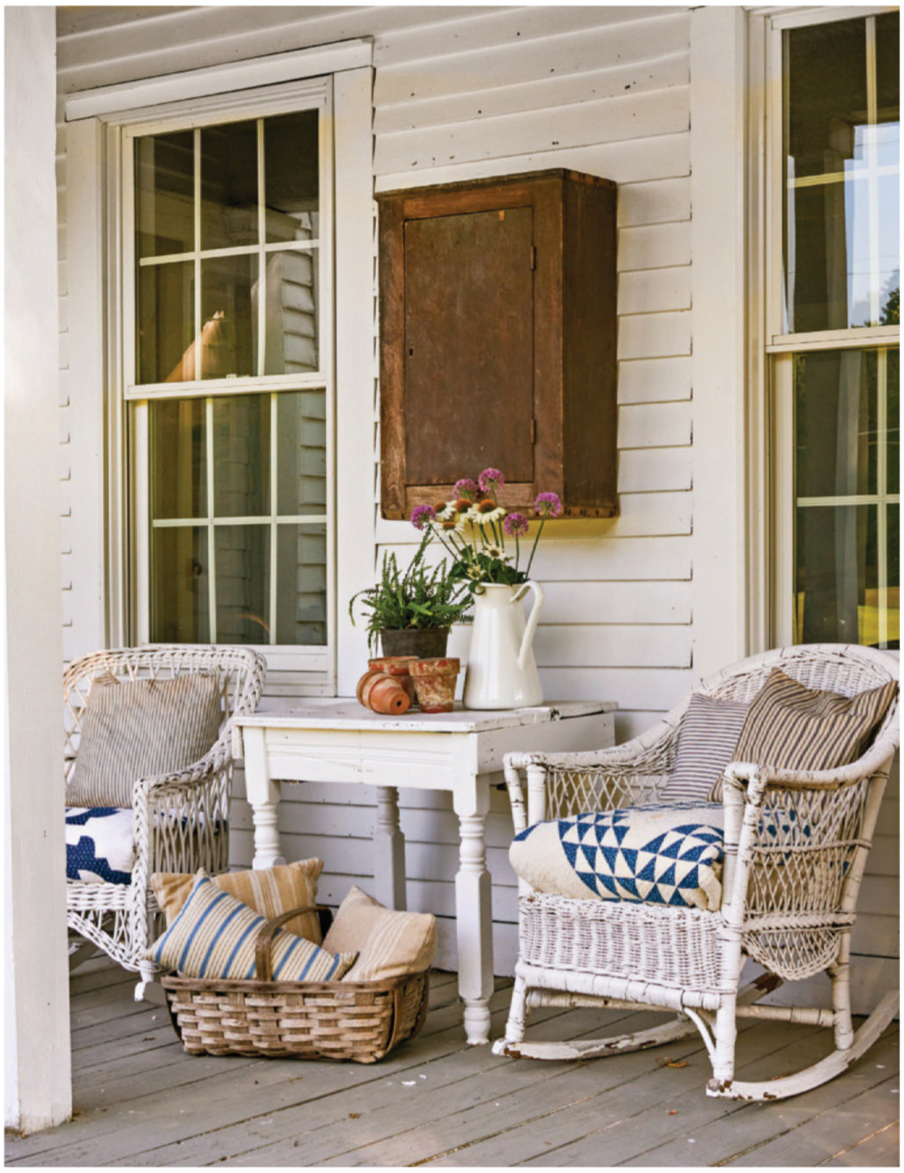
The Brokmans' lean budget and need to balance projects with their professional lives slowed their pace to a 12-year crawl, but true to their spirits, they spun those factors into a positive outlook—and outcome. "This gave us time to decide how we really wanted this home to live," Megan says. ◆

For resources, see page 94.

THIS PHOTO: This inviting bedroom reading niche is outfitted with a classic wing chair, a $20 thrift store find, brightened by a vintage quilt.

ABOVE LEFT: Megan collects cloches, many from thrift stores or flea markets. Though often placed in the garden, hers add sparkle indoors. “I love their beautiful simplicity,” she says. *ABOVE RIGHT:* For visual continuity throughout their home, the Brokman’s bedroom also features white paneling sandwiched between dark floors and rafters. Old bureaus stand in for nightstands and, along with the trunk, offer needed storage in an old farmhouse with limited closet space. *BELOW LEFT:* Megan prefers vintage textiles that have a simple, graphic quality. “I’ve collected blue and white quilts and linens, along with red and white quilts and French linens for many years, mainly from flea markets,” Megan says. “Etsy and eBay carry lots of red monogrammed linens, my favorite.” *BELOW RIGHT:* In the guest room, the bed is dressed in quiet colors using a charming, mismatched mix of vintage and new dressings. Every bed in the house has a trunk at its foot to catch extra blankets and other items. Megan shares her decorating tips and ever-evolving farmhouse on Instagram @farmhouse5540.



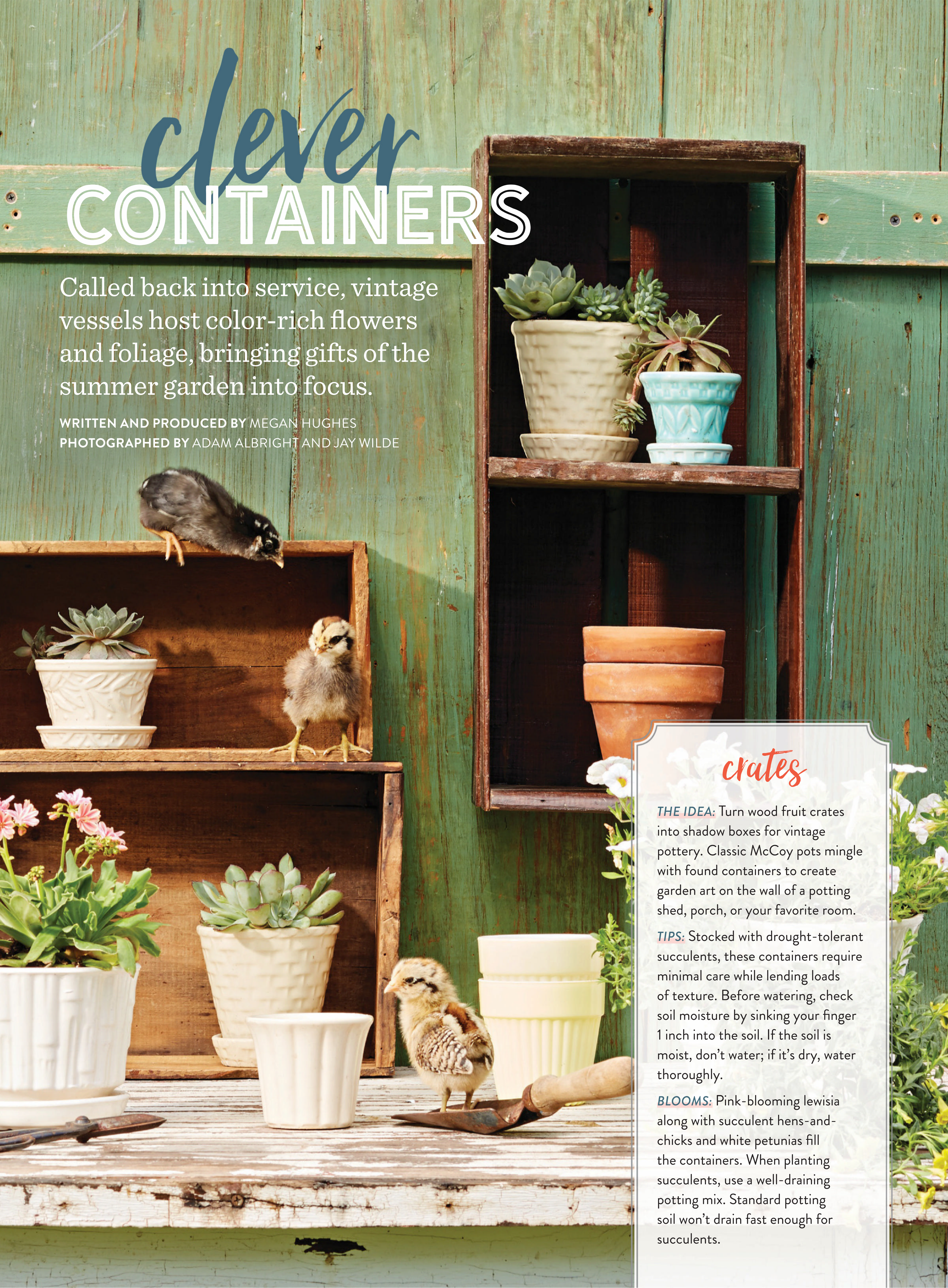


ABOVE: The roomy primary bath was originally the kitchen in a former “in-law suite.” The couple gutted the space, adding windows and shiplap while exposing original beams. They repurposed the original sink, and built the cabinet to house it. ***RIGHT:*** Finishes are often left in their perfectly weathered state, and the classic wicker rockers on the front porch are no exception. Vintage tickings and quilts cozy up the space. ***OPPOSITE:*** This old crib turned daybed was a score at a favorite Ohio antiques show. Megan replaced its bright upholstery with creamy white quilted fabric. “I stuffed some feed sacks I found at the flea market for just a few dollars to add layers and texture,” she says.

clever CONTAINERS

Called back into service, vintage vessels host color-rich flowers and foliage, bringing gifts of the summer garden into focus.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY MEGAN HUGHES
PHOTOGRAPHED BY ADAM ALBRIGHT AND JAY WILDE



crates

THE IDEA: Turn wood fruit crates into shadow boxes for vintage pottery. Classic McCoy pots mingle with found containers to create garden art on the wall of a potting shed, porch, or your favorite room.

TIPS: Stocked with drought-tolerant succulents, these containers require minimal care while lending loads of texture. Before watering, check soil moisture by sinking your finger 1 inch into the soil. If the soil is moist, don't water; if it's dry, water thoroughly.

BLOOMS: Pink-blooming lewisia along with succulent hens-and-chicks and white petunias fill the containers. When planting succulents, use a well-draining potting mix. Standard potting soil won't drain fast enough for succulents.

toolbox

THE IDEA: Give a hardworking trug or toolbox a new role by planting it with long-blooming annuals. Old boxes stocked with upright and trailing easy-care plants overflow with movable color.

TIPS: Flea markets, farm auctions, and tag sales are ideal venues to search out old toolboxes and trugs. Check under display tables and out-of-the-way places for overlooked pieces.

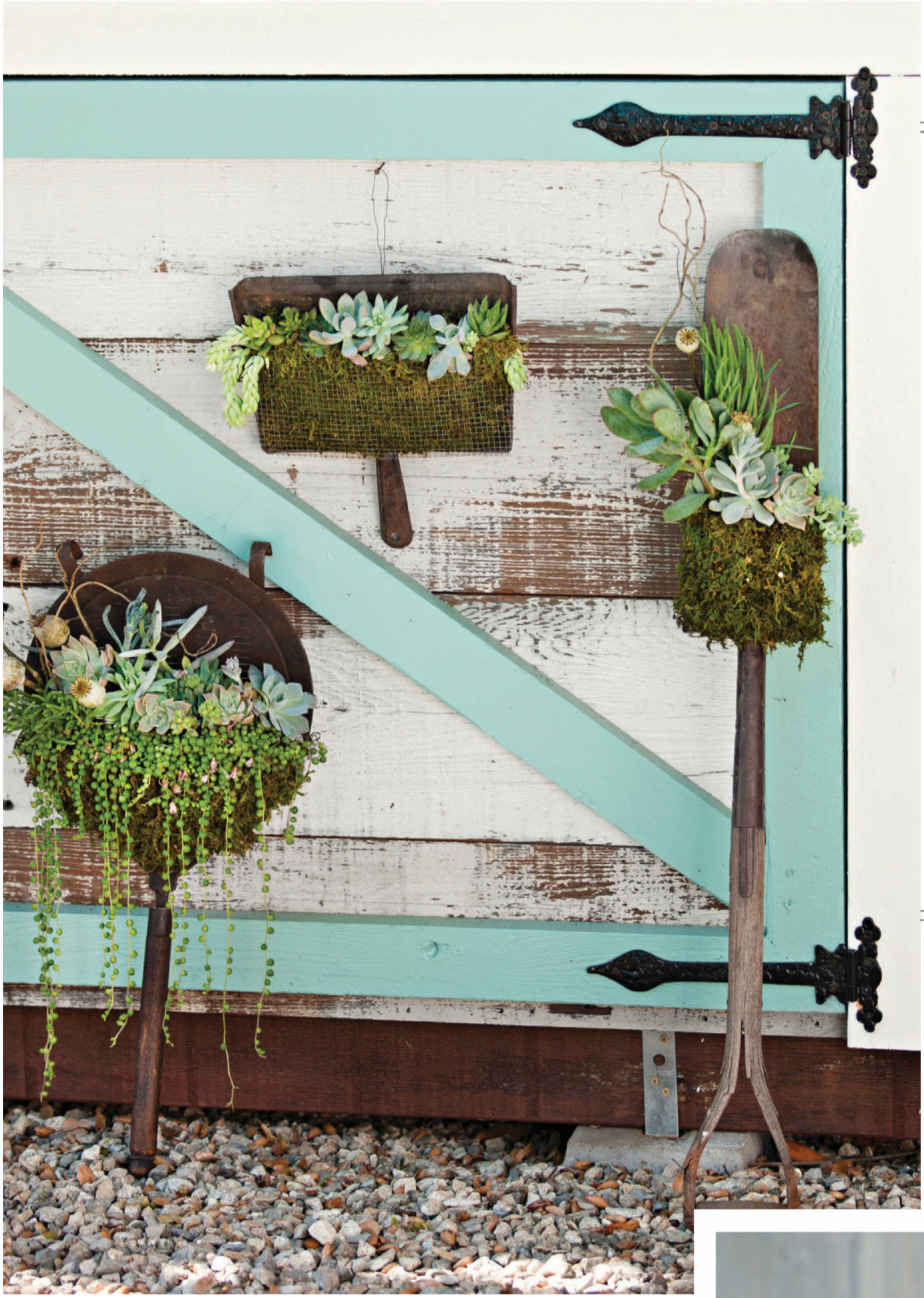
BLOOMS: Argyranthemum in shades of magenta and yellow blossoms for weeks in spring. Replace it with geraniums when hot weather hits. Trailing pink Bacopa adds color from spring to fall.

teapot

THE IDEA: Whether whistling on the stove top or planted with petunias, teapots have a way of evoking all things home. This charmer also welcomes respite—garden-style—inviting you to rest a spell.

TIPS: Pluck spent blooms off petunias as you have time. Removing the dead flowers will encourage the plant to produce new flowers, continuing the flower show until the first frost.

BLOOMS: Petunias are sun-loving garden workhorses. They bloom until the first frost and demand little, other than regular watering, from the gardener. Available in a multitude of colors and even some color combinations, petunias can mix with any garden palette.



garden tools

THE IDEA: Repurpose old garden tools into botanical art with easy-care succulents. Create a planting pocket by tightly wrapping wire mesh around the tool, securing it in the back with florists wire. Line the pocket with sphagnum moss and poke more moss through the front of the mesh.

TIPS: Display in a bright area but avoid full sun. Water weekly by soaking the plants, then allowing them to dry out completely.

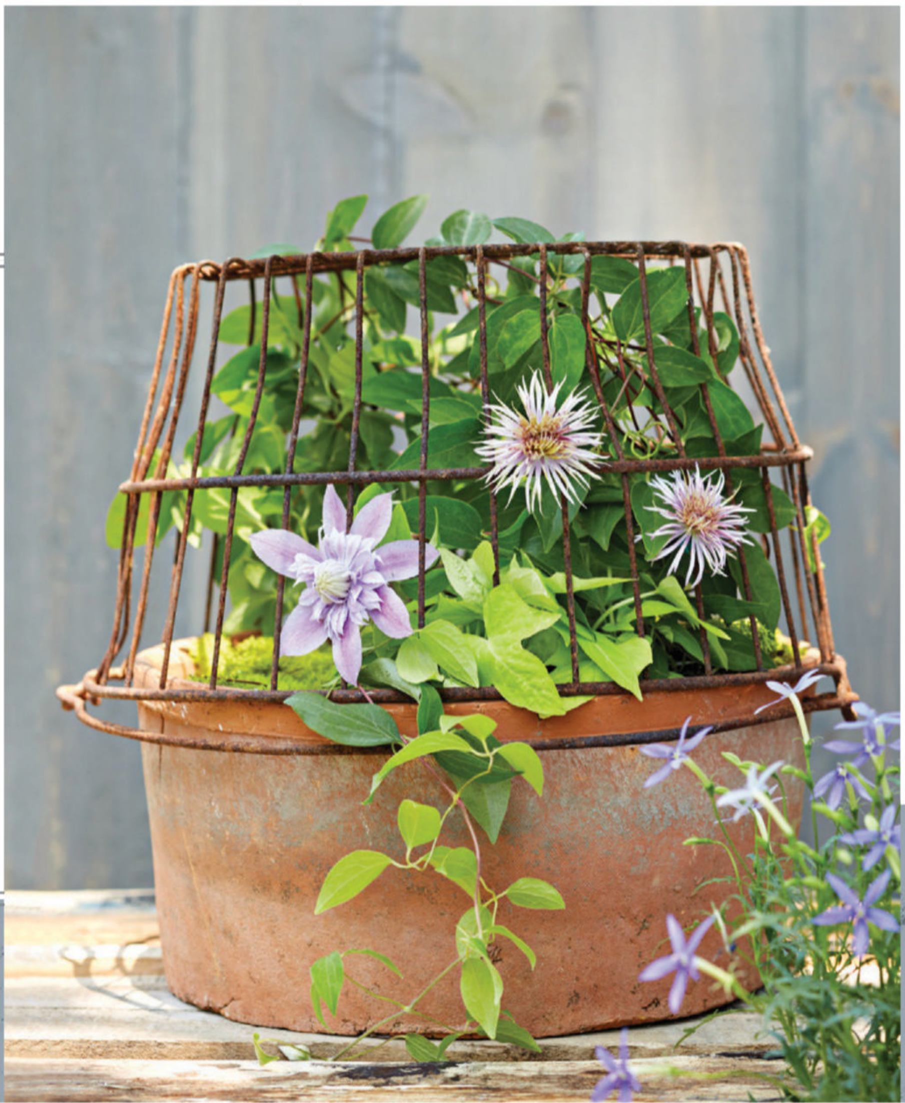
BLOOMS: Shop for a mix of succulents, such as hens-and-chicks, Echeveria, and sedums, including trailing types like burro's tail and string of pearls.

egg basket

THE IDEA: This sweet alfresco centerpiece brings petal-packed clematis blossoms to eye level. Abandoned on the junk heap, the egg basket provides structure for the twining perennial vine. Paired with a shallow terra-cotta planter—the more patina, the better—the combo is an ever-changing garden focal point.

TIPS: Clematis is often sold climbing up a petite trellis. Before planting in a terra-cotta container, carefully remove the vine from the trellis, cutting away the structure and unfurling the tendrils.

BLOOMS: 'Blue Light' clematis blooms in late spring and summer; its clean, green foliage is an asset throughout the growing season. For a pop of chartreuse, cover the soil with a thin layer of reindeer moss, available at crafts supply stores.

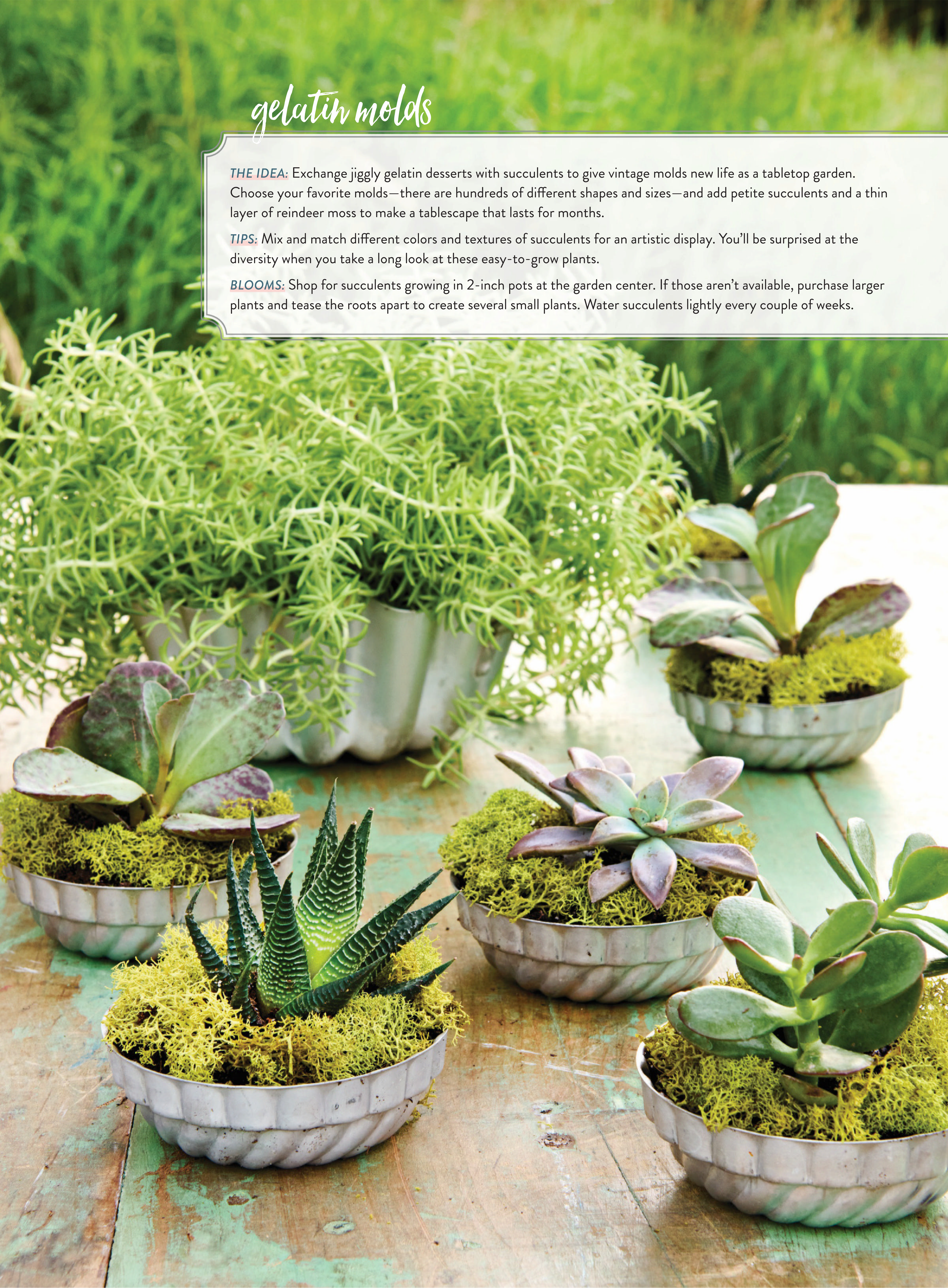


gelatin molds

THE IDEA: Exchange jiggly gelatin desserts with succulents to give vintage molds new life as a tabletop garden. Choose your favorite molds—there are hundreds of different shapes and sizes—and add petite succulents and a thin layer of reindeer moss to make a tablescape that lasts for months.

TIPS: Mix and match different colors and textures of succulents for an artistic display. You'll be surprised at the diversity when you take a long look at these easy-to-grow plants.

BLOOMS: Shop for succulents growing in 2-inch pots at the garden center. If those aren't available, purchase larger plants and tease the roots apart to create several small plants. Water succulents lightly every couple of weeks.



casserole dish

THE IDEA: A hot dish of a different flavor, this enamel casserole pan was transformed into a planter with the addition of a few drainage holes in the bottom. Vintage pots and pans like this one are a cinch to convert into planting containers. Scan tag sales and markets for colorful pots with pleasing shapes.

TIPS: Keep long-blooming plants like begonias flowering through the tail end of summer by supplying them with a nutrient boost in July. Enrich the plants with a liquid fertilizer every two weeks beginning in mid-July and ending in mid-August.

BLOOMS: Begonias and other succulents thrive in shallow planting containers. This casserole dish is filled with a generous helping of pink-flowering begonias, which tolerate dry conditions well. Keep in mind that all shallow planting pots can dry out quickly.

flour sifters

THE IDEA: Adorned with flowers and equipped with great drainage due to their mesh bottoms, vintage sifters transition from kitchen to garden with ease.

TIPS: Unify multiple containers and create a calming vignette by working within a monochromatic palette. Pinks blend easily and always exude a soft, fresh beauty.

BLOOMS: Calibrachoa and geranium sport new blossoms every few days. Count on these easy-care, hardworking annuals to bloom from spring until fall.

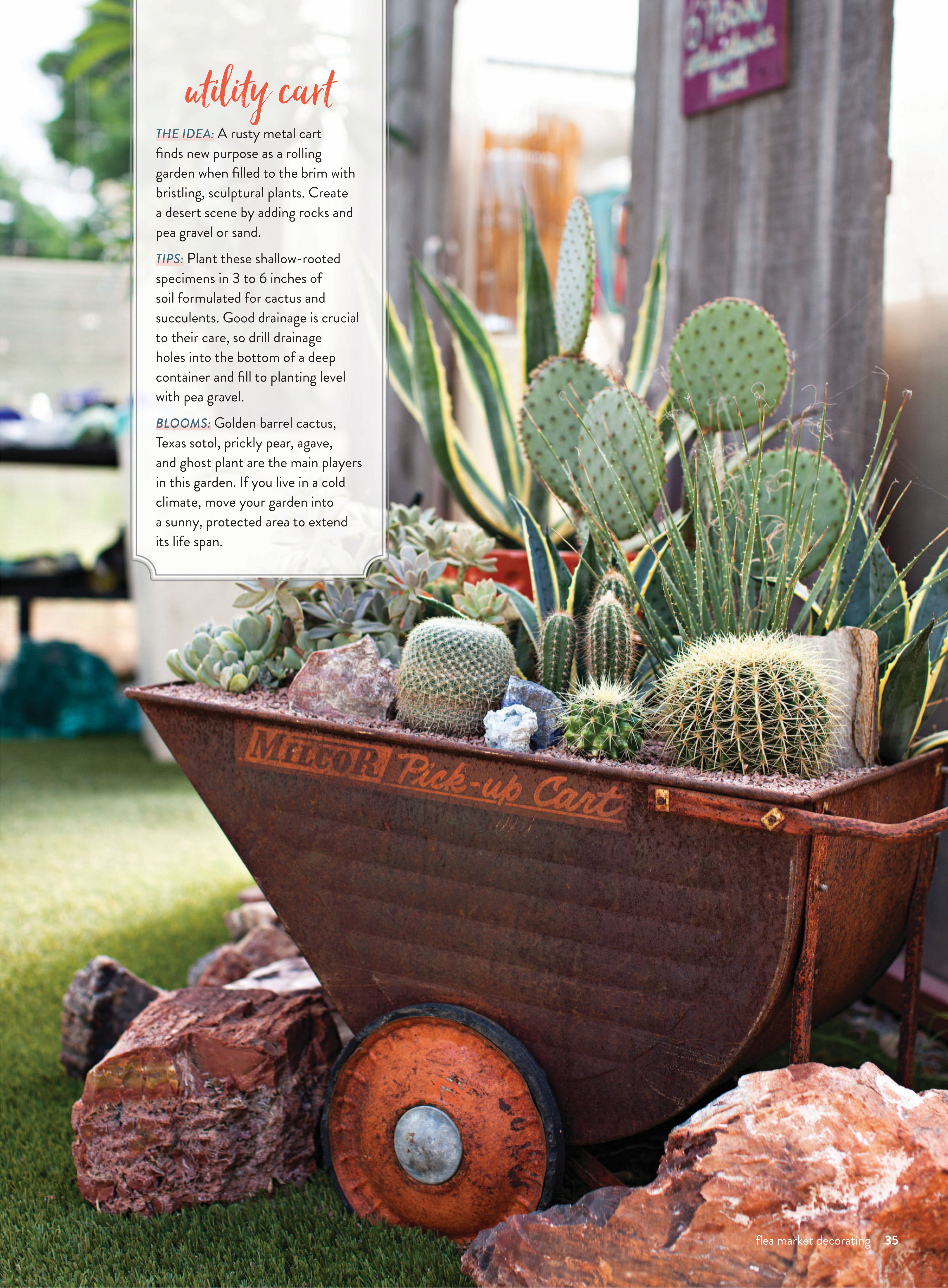
◆ For resources, see page 94.

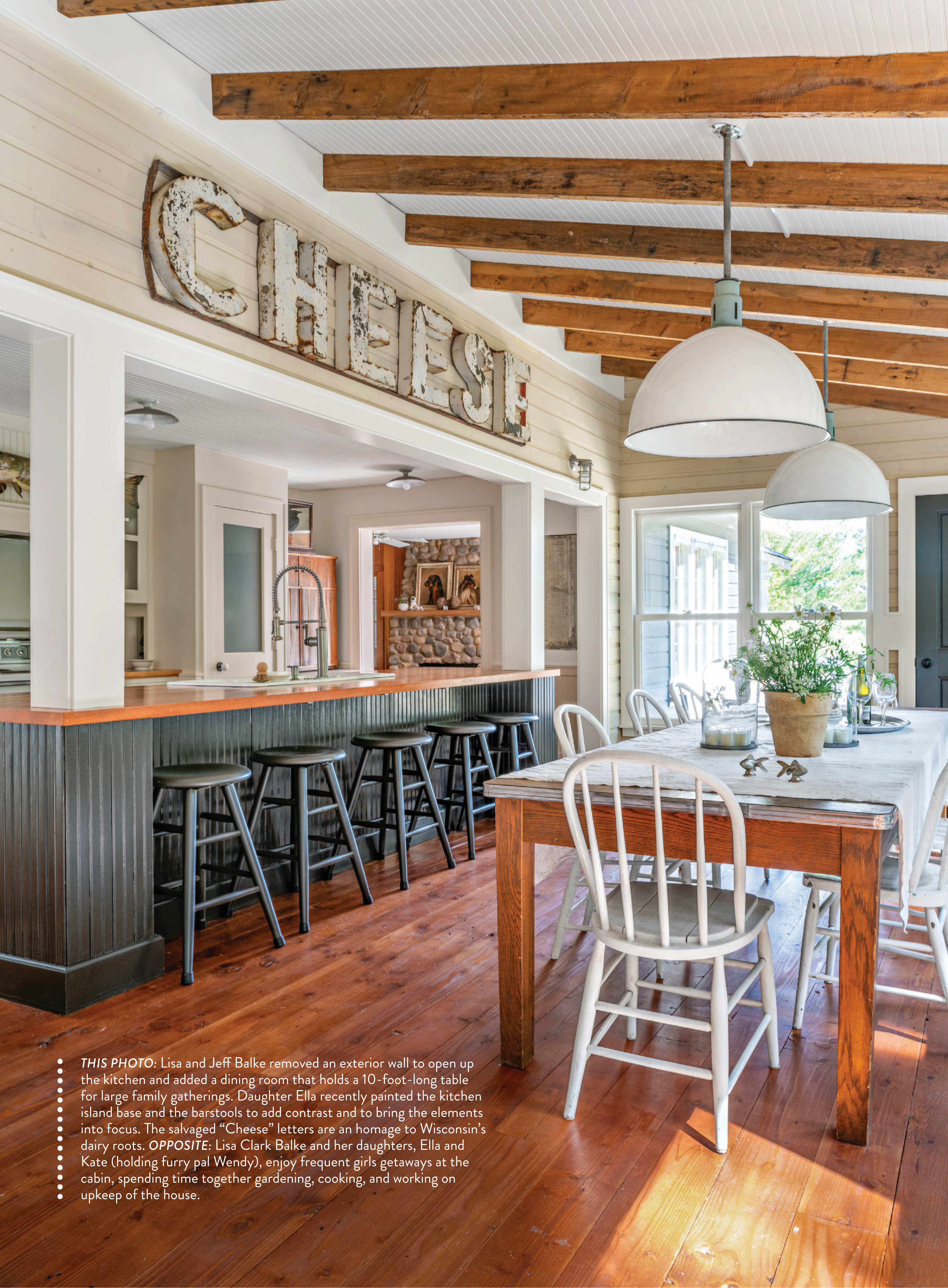
utility cart

THE IDEA: A rusty metal cart finds new purpose as a rolling garden when filled to the brim with bristling, sculptural plants. Create a desert scene by adding rocks and pea gravel or sand.

TIPS: Plant these shallow-rooted specimens in 3 to 6 inches of soil formulated for cactus and succulents. Good drainage is crucial to their care, so drill drainage holes into the bottom of a deep container and fill to planting level with pea gravel.

BLOOMS: Golden barrel cactus, Texas sotol, prickly pear, agave, and ghost plant are the main players in this garden. If you live in a cold climate, move your garden into a sunny, protected area to extend its life span.





THIS PHOTO: Lisa and Jeff Balke removed an exterior wall to open up the kitchen and added a dining room that holds a 10-foot-long table for large family gatherings. Daughter Ella recently painted the kitchen island base and the barstools to add contrast and to bring the elements into focus. The salvaged “Cheese” letters are an homage to Wisconsin’s dairy roots. *OPPOSITE:* Lisa Clark Balke and her daughters, Ella and Kate (holding furry pal Wendy), enjoy frequent girls getaways at the cabin, spending time together gardening, cooking, and working on upkeep of the house.

MEMORY makers

A Minneapolis family builds history into their cabin getaway with favorite finds and shared traditions.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY KELLY RYAN KEGANS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY CHAD HOLDER

THIS PHOTO: Vaulting the living room ceiling was one of the first remodeling projects the Balkes undertook—one that challenged Lisa's drafting skills, she says. She considers the space a work in progress, but the extra ceiling height and walls of windows allow in tons of light that is warmed with the fir ceiling and floors. A clean-line sectional provides room for the family to spread out but doesn't block the view.

The hula send-off that Lisa Clark Balke and her daughters give visitors when they leave their cabin might seem out of place near a lake in Wisconsin—just as it did at the farm in North Dakota where it originated. But the backstory is even more endearing: "One year, my grandma Carina visited Hawaii, and when she came back, she would do a hula dance every time we left her farm," Lisa says.

Such is how the seeds of long-held traditions bloom: Unplanned moments, reenacted over the years, make tangible memories. Lisa and Jeff Balke began their family's getaway traditions in 1998 when they bought a 1920s cabin near Danbury, Wisconsin, about a two-hour drive from their Minneapolis home. Their three children, Tom, Ella, and Kate, were toddlers at the time and have since grown up either watching their parents work or rolling up their sleeves alongside them to renovate and make improvements. "We found our groove doing projects at the cabin," Lisa says of the years spent taking down walls, rearranging rooms, and adding layers of paint and personality.

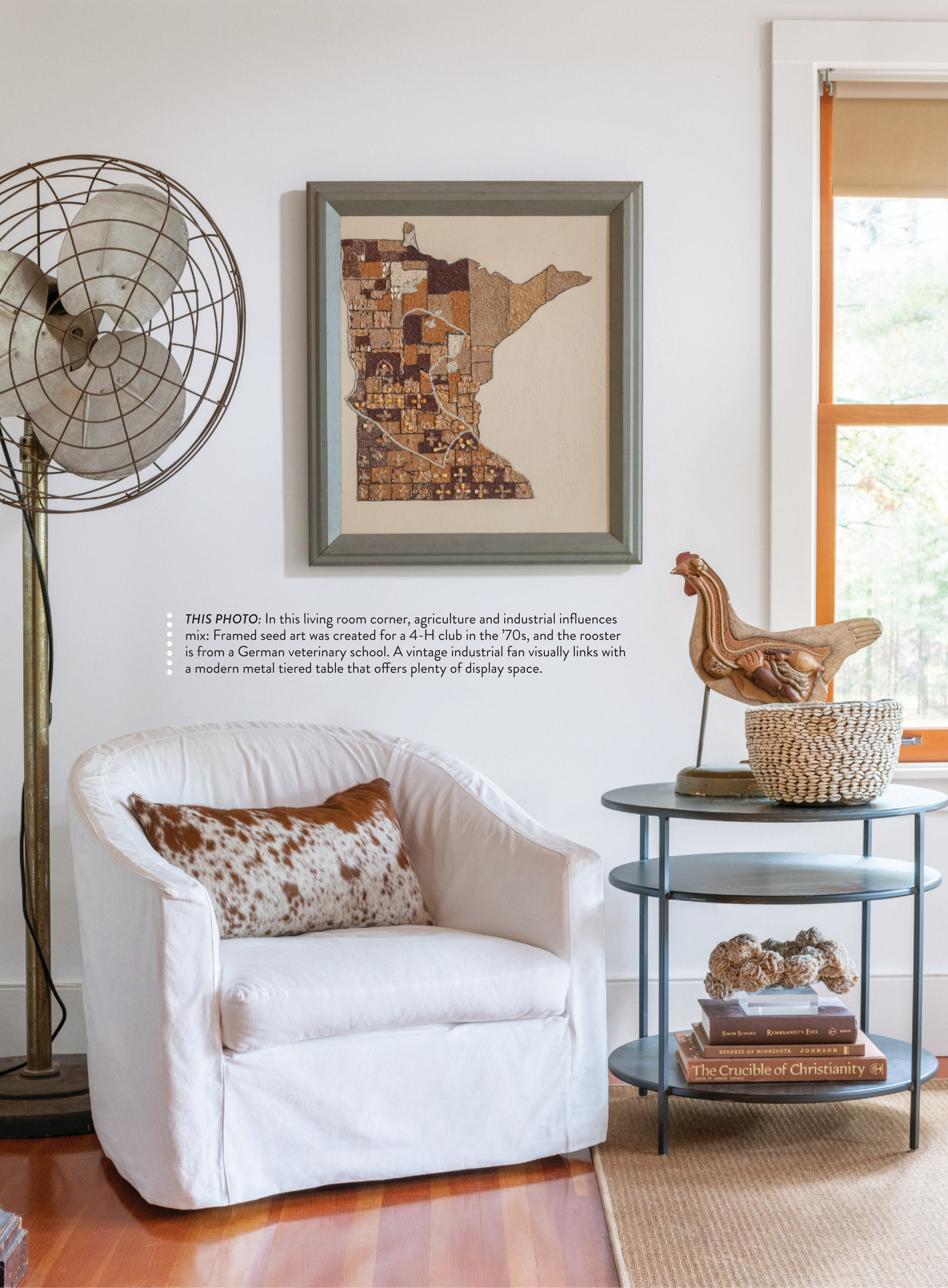
Situated on 9 acres overlooking Fish Lake, the Balkes' cabin is a distillation of Lisa's modern-rustic style. "It used to be way more country here, but, like anything, I've grown and now I'm way more into clean lines that are modern and industrial mixed with vintage," she says.

Striking a visual balance is a passion that's both personal and professional for Lisa, who co-owns Victory, a home goods shop in Minneapolis brimming with new and vintage treasures that she and co-owner Susan Blankenship have plucked from estate and garage sales and flea and gift markets. Careful not to give away their secret sources, the partners and longtime friends—they met working as cocktail waitresses after college—also rely on pickers to score other unusual finds, some of which

“MOM HAS HAD AN INFLUENCE ON THE TYPES OF SPACES I’M DRAWN TO—MY FAVORITE ONES ARE ALWAYS FILLED WITH *objects that are individually really interesting.*”

— **DAUGHTER** ELLA BALKE

ABOVE LEFT: A mix of matte white vases—some by Red Wing, others simply marked U.S.A.—pop against the rustic backdrop. Vintage pet portraits Lisa bought from her business partner now adorn the mantel. “They were just the right color for the cabin,” Lisa says. *ABOVE:* Lisa’s collected clay flowerpots below the vintage gemsbok mount are mostly made in Red Wing, Minnesota. The weathered armoire holds stacks of boxed puzzles and DVDs for rainy days. *LEFT:* Lisa and Jeff installed the den’s wood paneling and have since dubbed the room the “wood box.” Wisconsin fieldstone carries the outside in, forming the fireplace surround in the den and on the screen porch on the other side of the room.

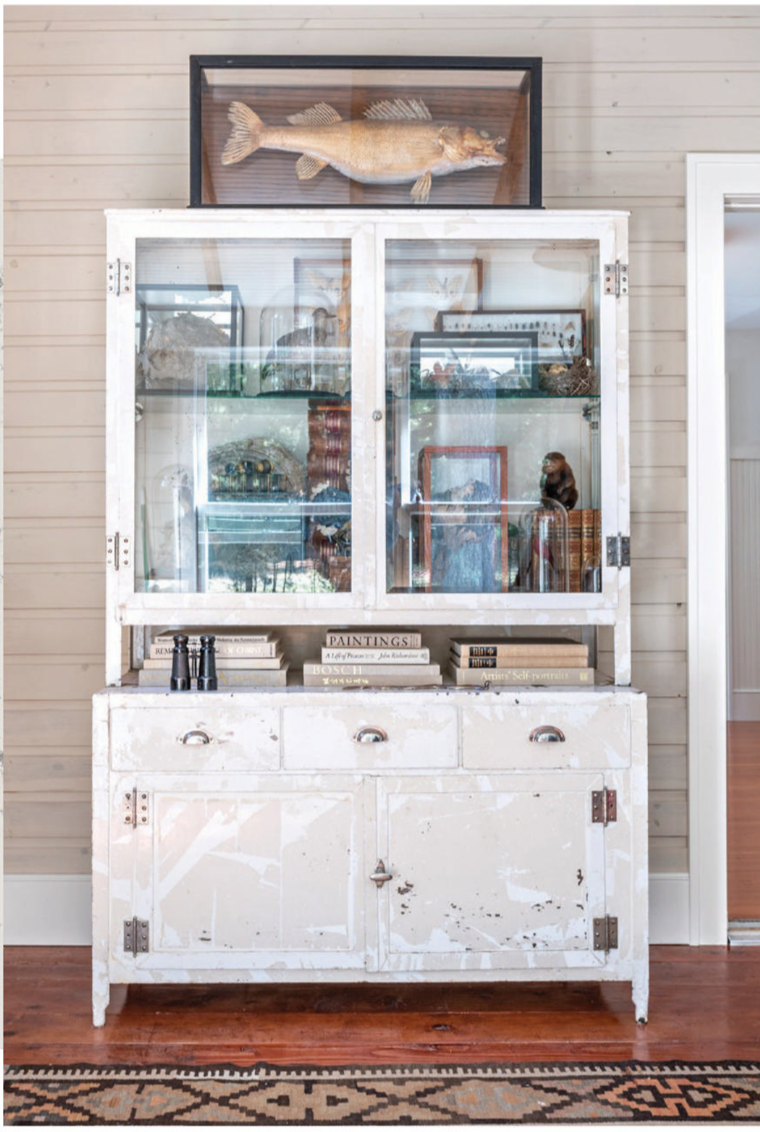


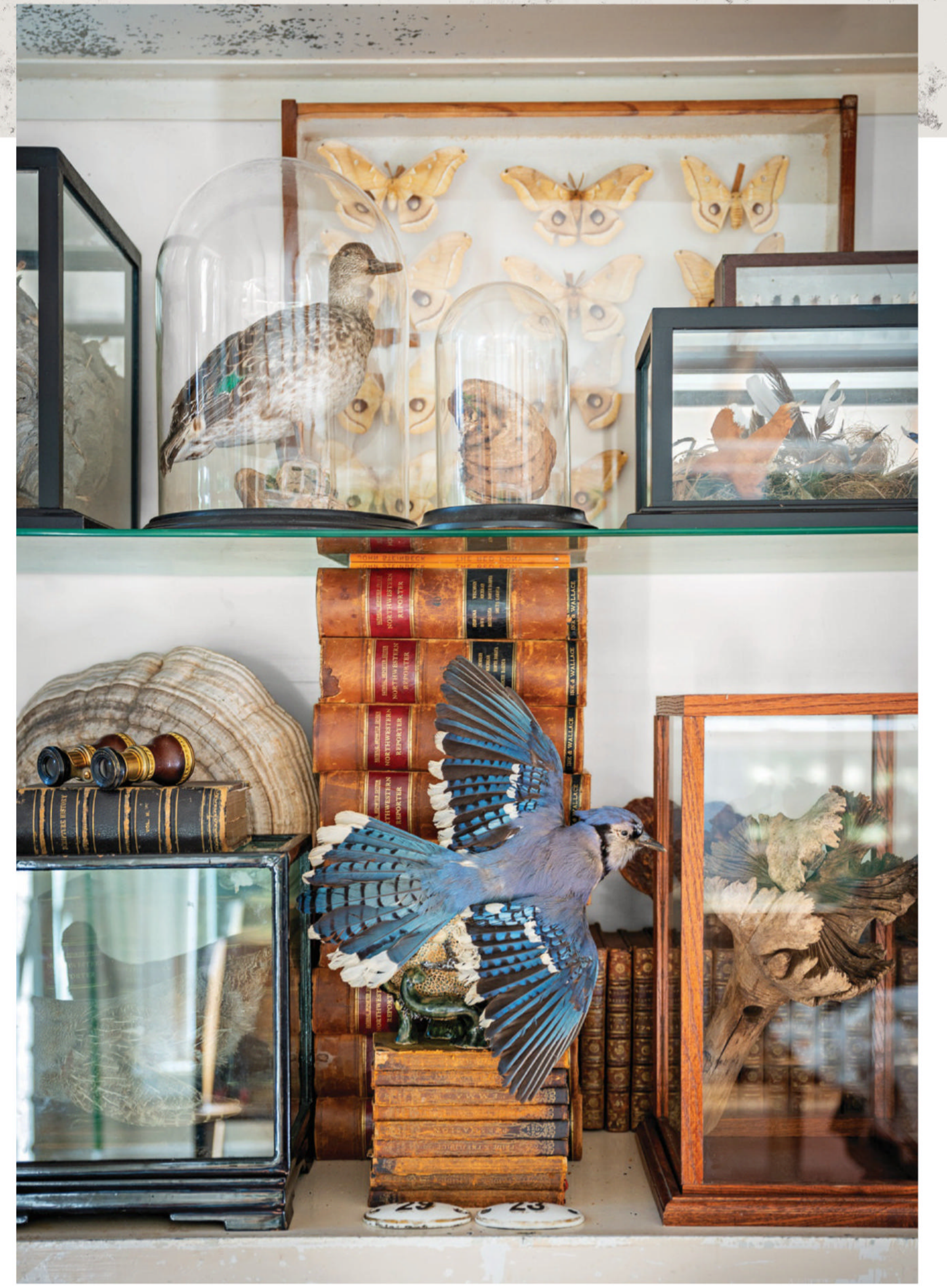
THIS PHOTO: In this living room corner, agriculture and industrial influences mix: Framed seed art was created for a 4-H club in the ’70s, and the rooster is from a German veterinary school. A vintage industrial fan visually links with a modern metal tiered table that offers plenty of display space.

SIMON SCHAMA REMBRANDT'S EYES KNOPF
RESORTS OF MINNESOTA JOHNSON
The Crucible of Christianity

COLLECT IT

Whether foraging items from one's outdoor surroundings, hunting for vintage taxidermy, or shopping for scientific books and tools, gathering displays of natural objects is a popular pursuit right now, an offshoot of the industrial trend. Look for pieces that are innately artful or that celebrate earthy wonders, such as butterfly specimens or antique brand-name science tools. These are prized for their ease in moving seamlessly from the lab to the living room. Elevate nature collections by gathering them in cloches or aquariums.





ABOVE AND LEFT: A metal pharmacy cabinet found on Craigslist houses a rotating display of Lisa's loves, including found feathers, fallen paper wasp's nests, and a taxidermy blue jay that never sold at her Minneapolis home goods shop, Victory. Other nature pieces came from her house when she downsized. "All the creepy critters ended up here," Lisa says.

ABOVE: The worn leather sofa is from an estate sale. Lisa paired it, in her signature modern-rustic style, with a bone-tile end table and an old educational map of the United States. ***ABOVE RIGHT:*** A nostalgic cast-iron sink and vintage mirror mix with modern utilitarian industrial-style light fixtures in the cabin's only bathroom. ***RIGHT:*** "Kate spotted the Hoosier cabinet and made me buy it. It fits perfectly right here," Lisa says. A former server and bartender, Kate is often the one to mix signature cocktails. ***OPPOSITE:*** Lisa pushed together a pair of new metal beds in the main bedroom and outfitted them as a king-size bed with vintage linen bedding and a wool throw. Driftwood lamps further the camp vibe.

land at Lisa's cabin from time to time.

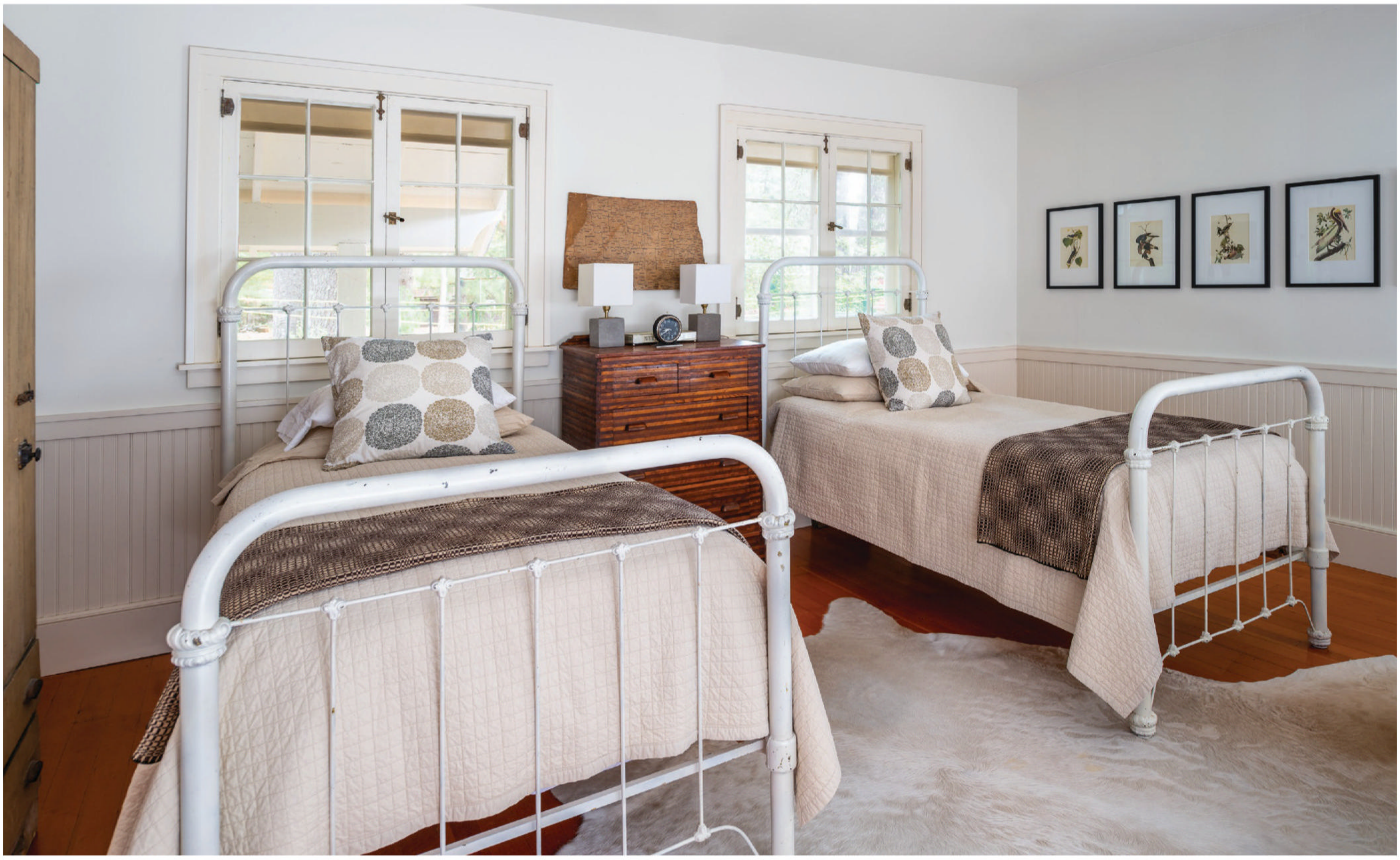
You might think the love of the hunt and gather can make it difficult for Lisa to part with newly found treasures, but the self-described minimalist eschews clutter. Bits of nature—found feathers, branches, rocks, and agate she buys at market—are on regular rotation on a large platter or grouped on a shelf. "I don't get too attached to stuff, and I don't like having a lot of things out everywhere," she says. "But I do like junk and weird stuff, so I try to keep it all in one place."

More recently, Ella, 27, and Kate, 25, have put their imprints on the cabin too. A vintage Hoosier cabinet Kate spotted at a nearby antiques store now serves up drinks as a bar in the kitchen. Ella's recent pet project focused on moving the entrance to the basement staircase out of her bedroom and giving it hallway-only access. "That basement door always made me irrationally uneasy, so now I love sleeping in there," she says.

When the family spends time together at the cabin, much of it is spent with paintbrushes and hammers in hand: making repairs, building an outdoor herb box, and giving rooms a refresh. "We aren't very good at relaxing," Ella says. "A few years ago, we built the rock retaining walls around the firepit as a 'fun' summer activity."

When they do unwind during a summertime girls getaway, Lisa, Ella, and Kate take hikes in the woods and wander down to the dock before building a bonfire at dusk. The talk often centers on planning projects for the next day. "Back in college, we didn't go to the cabin often, but in the past few years, as we've been dusting off some of the things, I've realized how important it is we work together to make it a place that can be enjoyed," Ella says. "It's a more meaningful place because we created it together." ◆

For resources, see page 94.



ABOVE: A pair of metal hospital beds flank a tramp art dresser and a map of North Dakota, a nod to Lisa's home state. For a budget-friendly wall display, Audubon prints were torn from a book and hung in a row in inexpensive, discount-store frames. ***BELOW LEFT:*** With late summer sunsets, there's plenty of time to linger at the lake after a day of activities at the cabin. Ella loves to take out the kayak for a row around the spring-fed lake while Kate and Lisa sit on the dock. ***BELOW RIGHT:*** Kate is the resident fire starter at the bonfire pit (she credits her years in Girl Scouts), where the girls catch up with a drink before starting dinner. ***OPPOSITE:*** The Balkes added on the screened-in porch that faces Fish Lake as a refuge from mosquitoes and pop-up rainstorms. Adirondack chairs are left in their natural state to blend with other raw woods in the space. They're pulled around a table made from a concrete slab atop a canvas utility bin on casters.

AWSON

jadeite ENVY

The moment a collector and antiques dealer spotted the refreshingly colored line of tableware, she was bowled over.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY TOVAH MARTIN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY KINDRA CLINEFF
STYLED BY EMILY KONTOS AND SANDRA SIGMAN

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Growing up, while her siblings jockeyed for food prep and cleanup duties, Emily Kontos always knew the role she wanted to play. Setting the table was Emily's chosen chore, and she became remarkably good at lining up the linens and stacking the plates. For Emily, the look was even more important than the meal.

Even so, Emily didn't cross paths with jadeite until five years ago. Although Emily's tabletop prowess earned her social media influencer status on Instagram (@thethriftedtable), she never encountered the uniquely colored line of dinnerware until she stumbled upon a collection in a local consignment shop near her suburban Boston home. "I grabbed my phone and snapped photos to send to my mom," says the antiques enthusiast, who now has her own family—and dinner traditions. "Together, we just drooled."

What caught Emily's eye was the dishware's unique color. Nothing compares to that Granny Smith-apple color on a table. Really, it is the embodiment of spring, no matter the season. At the consignment shop, Emily snapped up the entire set, consisting primarily of plates, dishes, and mugs. Her research revealed that she had stumbled on Anchor Hocking Company's Fire-King Restaurant Ware, a heat-resistant line introduced in the 1940s.

OPPOSITE: Often offered as supermarket promotions in the 1940s and '50s, storage canisters with handy lids were popular for stockpiling staples like flour, cereal, and coffee. Emily's collection features pieces produced by both McKee and Jeannette glass companies in varying shades. ***LEFT:*** Mixing and matching to her heart's content, Emily stacks Fire-King dinner plates and saucers in the maker's signature hues—Jade-ite, Rose-ite, and Azur-ite—topped by a scalloped jadeite bowl. The pastel pieces are coupled with a soft arrangement of roses, peonies, ranunculus, and raspberries. ***ABOVE:*** The predecessor to jadeite was American patterned glass, which was also made in muted pastel colors, like this pair of green salt and pepper shakers. They stand on the glass lid of a jadeite butter dish with a screw-lidded Fire-King grease jar in the background.

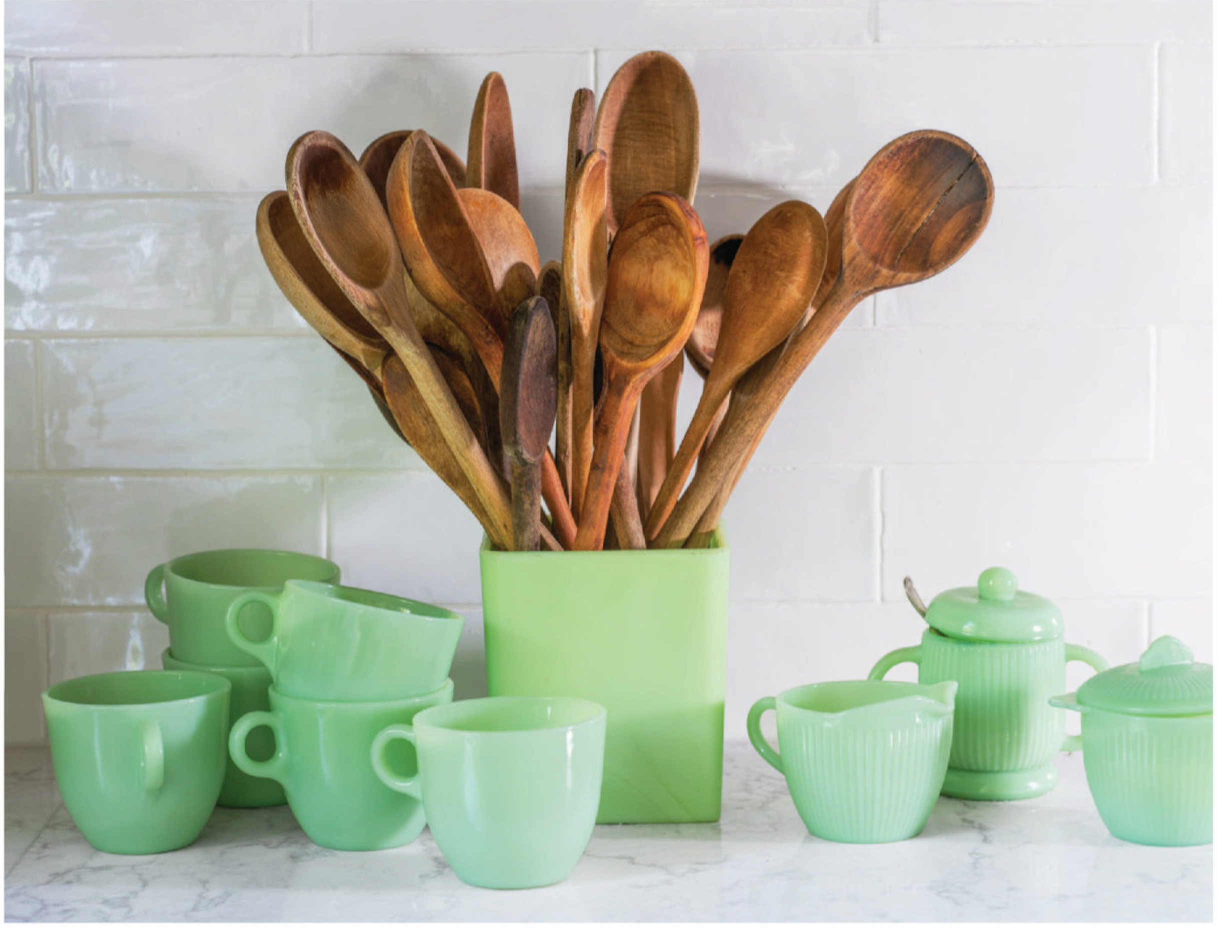
ABOVE: To display goodies on all levels, Emily stacks jadeite cake stands. On top is a new fluted version available from martha.com; below is a hobnail 1990s cake stand from Martha by Mail. At a flea market, she nabbed a couple of jadeite candy dishes with scalloped edges. ***RIGHT:*** Meet collector Emily Kontos, who began assembling her enviable collection just five years ago.

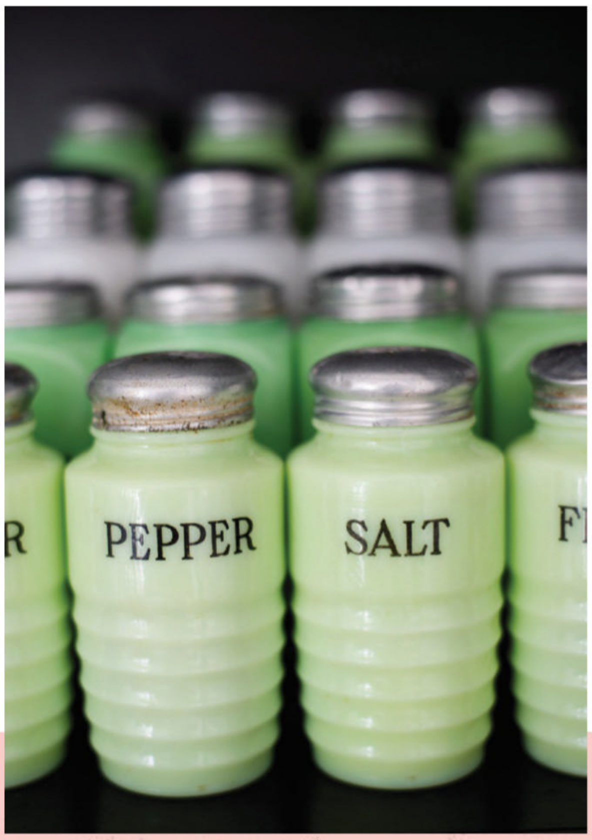
Originally, the ultradurable milk glass pieces were inexpensive and occasionally given away as promotions, which tantalized the public into buying more. McKee Glass Company and Jeannette Glass Company were two of the other leading manufacturers of jadeite, which was first popularized during the Depression era. McKee was the first to combine green-glass scraps and opaque milk glass to create the signature color; Jeannette Glass Company's version was called Jadite. Fire-King added a hyphen to their iteration, named Jade-ite. Eventually, jadeite spawned other patterns of "kitchenalia," including canisters, cake stands, cookie jars, butter dishes, mixing bowls, honey jars—you name it. Other colors of thick opaque glass also entered the arena—like pink Rose-ite, pale blue Azur-ite, and bright blue Delph-ite. Martha Stewart got into collecting the dinnerware, reigniting the trend and launching her own line in the 1990s.

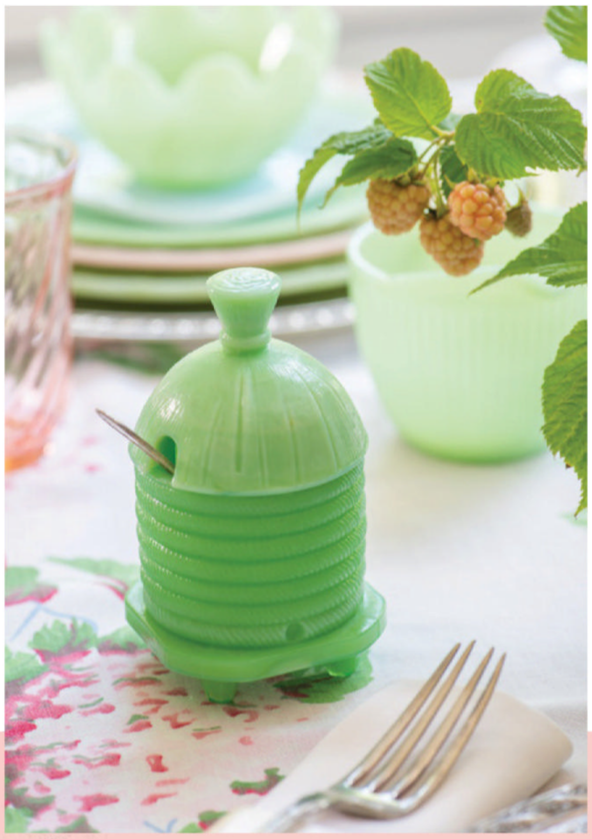
With so much jadeite available, your setting can easily become too monochromatic. Emily knows exactly how to mingle her jadeite with other hues to make the table glow, bring out the spring green color, and make each piece distinct. It all goes back to the expertise she honed doing dinner chores. By sprinkling in other colors, stacking the collection, and syncopating the presentation, she ensures that every piece of jadeite is displayed for all its worth, and then some. ◆

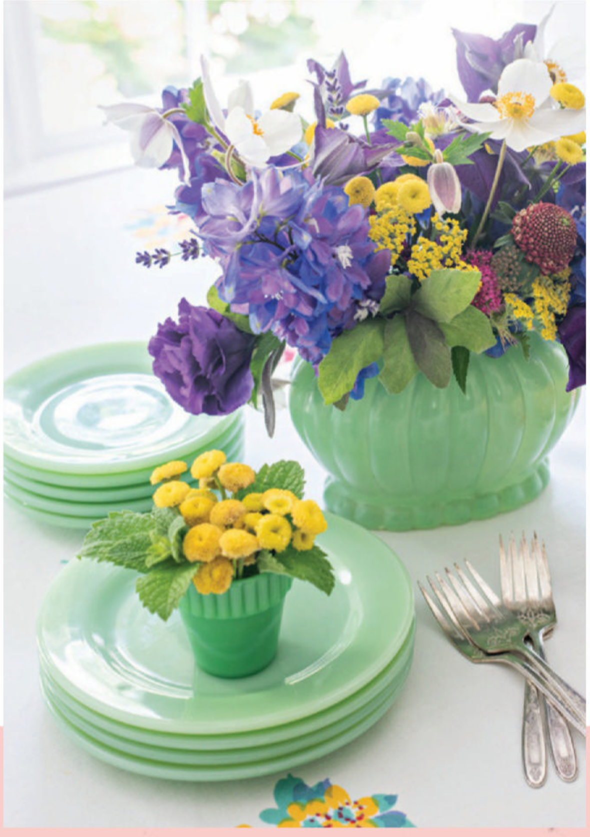
For resources, see page 94.

BELOW: Not surprisingly, Emily's countertop is spread with an array of jadeite ready for action, including a set of Fire-King jadeite St. Denis pattern mugs beside Fire-King Jane Ray pattern sugar and creamers. A lidless Jeannette canister cradles her wooden spoon collection. The spoons contrast the pale glassware, allowing each item to be visually distinct. ***BOTTOM LEFT:*** Among the most popular and practical jadeite kitchenware items were range shakers typically kept close to the stove to be ready when needed. ***BOTTOM MIDDLE:*** When Emily sets the breakfast table, her jadeite honey jar is never far from the cereal. A 1990s item offered by Martha Stewart's Martha by Mail line, it's just begging to cradle a tiny silver spoon. ***BOTTOM RIGHT:*** The soft green of jadeite pairs well with rich purples, blues, and yellows. Florist Sandra Sigman of Les Fleurs lets jadeite be the star in an arrangement of delphinium, lisianthus, anemone, and yellow billy buttons softened with spearmint leaves. The Akro Agate glass vase predates jadeite but whetted the country's appetite for the apple-color tableware.









A ROOM IN bloom

She dreamed about it. He helped build it. Together an Oklahoma couple fashions a greenhouse and family retreat from salvage materials and vintage pieces.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA THORPE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAY WILDE

◆

ABOVE: A vintage shutter doubles as a table runner in Kerri and Barry Tabor's greenhouse. Kerri pots herbs in different-size containers as a centerpiece. ***RIGHT:*** The couple began building the backyard structure in 2018 as an everyday retreat. "The glass was in, the roof was in place, and the counters installed by Valentine's Day 2019," Kerri says. "We had our Valentine's Day dinner in the greenhouse."

FRESH CUT FLOWERS
TULIPS - ROSES - PEONIES

Fresh Cut
FLOWERS

COLLECT IT

Loved for their practicality and personality, garden collectibles—from shapely cast-iron urns to simple pots made of clay—are always a hot category at flea markets. Classical urns have inherent decorative beauty that, when combined with a weathered patina, present a yin-yang charm that attracts collectors. Old terra-cotta pots and unglazed pots that wear Redwing or USA marks have the same earthy appeal. Their small size makes them perfect for massing with colorful individual plants. All of the pieces celebrate the joy of gardening.

For years, she picked up store-bought bouquets to bring fresh flowers into their home. Then one day she thought, Why don't I just grow these myself? She started sowing flowers, but a lot of Kerri and husband Barry's 2-acre property in Muldrow, Oklahoma, was choked by weedy trees and brush. The couple worked to clear it all out so they could actually see the woods and valleys enveloping their property. With a view revealed just outside their patio doors, Kerri started dreaming. She wanted a backyard escape. Something like the English-style greenhouses she saw on Pinterest.

"I was bugging Barry to death," she says. "I would show him photos of every greenhouse I could find and tell him, 'Wouldn't it be cool if we could build a greenhouse in our backyard?'" She even sketched out her vision on a piece of paper. Barry, a physical education teacher, coach, and all-around handy guy, liked to take on DIY projects. He had experience with other building projects and decided to build the greenhouse himself.

The two started collecting affordable vintage windows to incorporate into the design. With Kerri's sketch for inspiration and pointers from his brother, Dion, a contractor, Barry got to work creating their dream greenhouse. "I framed up the windows individually, and then I built the greenhouse around them," he says. "There was no plan. I just did a lot of standing and a lot of looking to figure it out. If you stand there and look long enough and measure twice and cut once, it all works out—usually."

OPPOSITE: The couple had electricity and water lines run out to the greenhouse so they can use it year-round. Infrared heaters plug into the beams to keep everything cozy in winter. "It has become a hangout and an entertaining space," Kerri says. "We eat dinner out there, play board games, and even do ukulele sing-alongs." The chandelier was a vintage find they snapped up to hang over the table and add some sparkly light at night. *ABOVE:* A small table inside the greenhouse is an ideal staging place for Kerri's collectible containers, including vintage metal and iron containers, old flowerpots, and bottle glass.

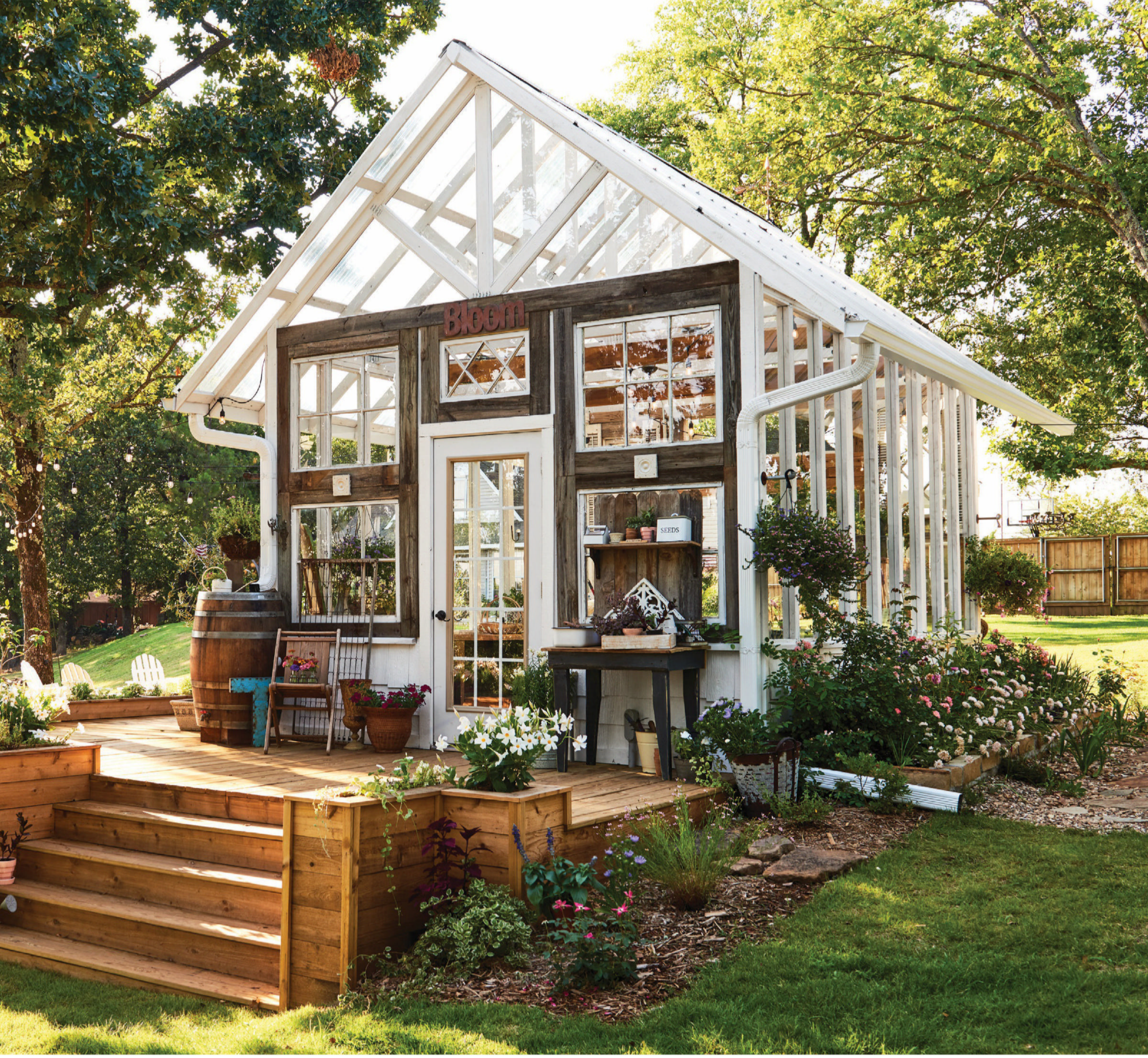
BELOW: This vintage iron cloche has a sculptural quality Kerri and Barry appreciate. ***RIGHT***: Barry built the deck around the greenhouse with help from his brother, Dion. “Even though my brother lives only 2,000 yards away from me, we don’t get to see each other that much. Dion and I got to spend a lot of good quality time together building the deck,” Barry says.

Barry incorporated meaningful materials to complete the 12×16-foot structure. When he found out that, to fix a road, the town of Muldrow was going to tear out a grove of pine trees his grandfather planted 40 years ago, Barry asked if he could haul away some of the wood. He repurposed the rough-cut pine into the greenhouse’s countertops and dining table. “The countertops are live edge, and they’re 2×16 feet in size and 2 inches thick,” he says. “I hardly had to take anything off of them, which was like a miracle since I didn’t even know the greenhouse would be a 12×16-foot building.”

The flagstone used in the floor was salvaged from a nearby historical house undergoing a renovation. Once the structure was complete, Kerri dressed it up with finds she and Barry uncovered at vintage shops and sales, from home stores, and online.

As the greenhouse came together, Kerri continued to sow a cut-flower garden in their cedar raised beds and started a vegetable garden to the south of the greenhouse. “We have a ton of clay. It’s all red dirt, and our property is really rocky,” she explains. “I knew we would have better luck growing things if we built raised beds we could fill with better soil.”

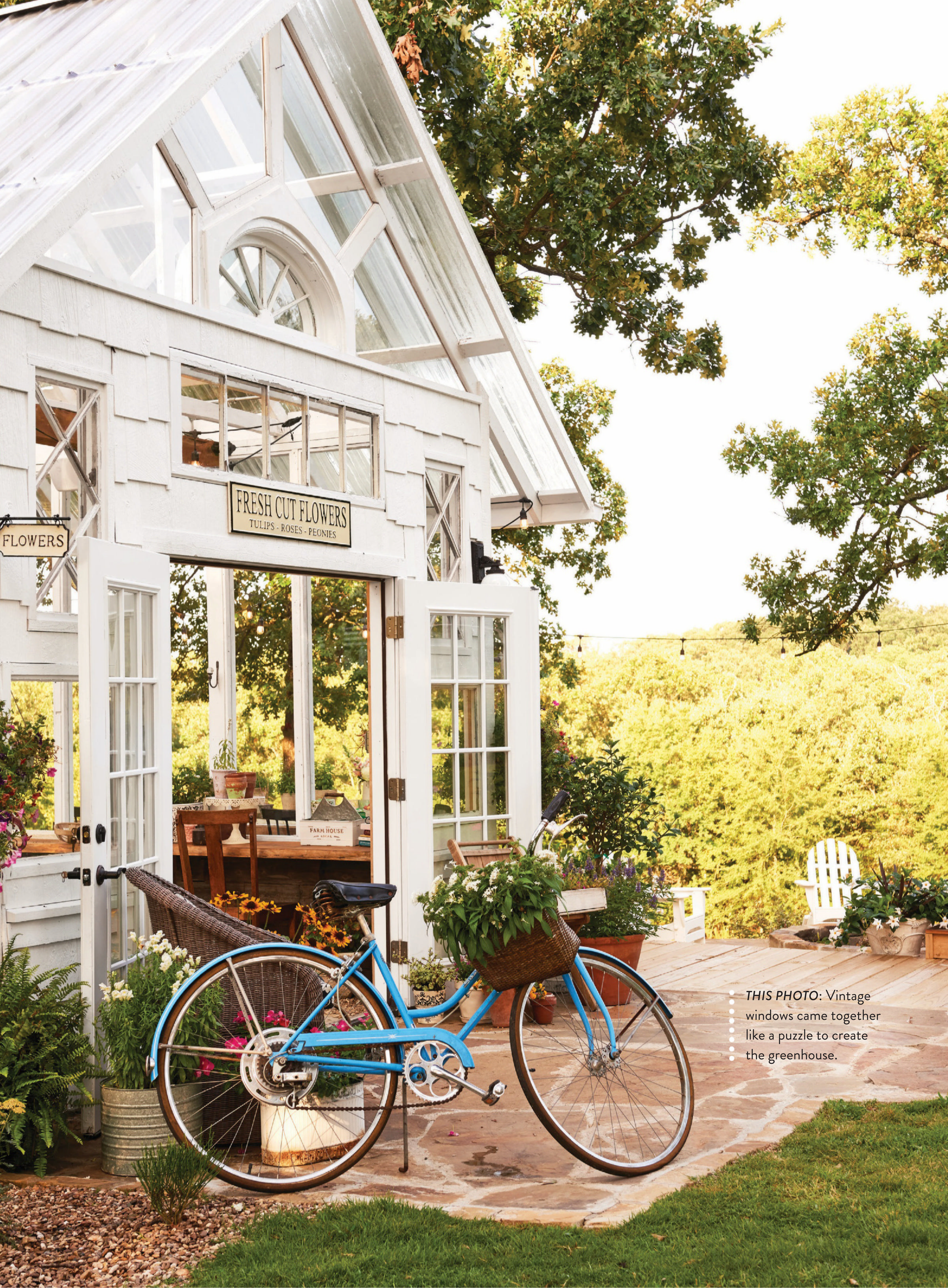
The greenhouse is a kind of playhouse for all ages. Their children, Dawson and Claire, claim it as their favorite place to hang out, as do their extended family, who live



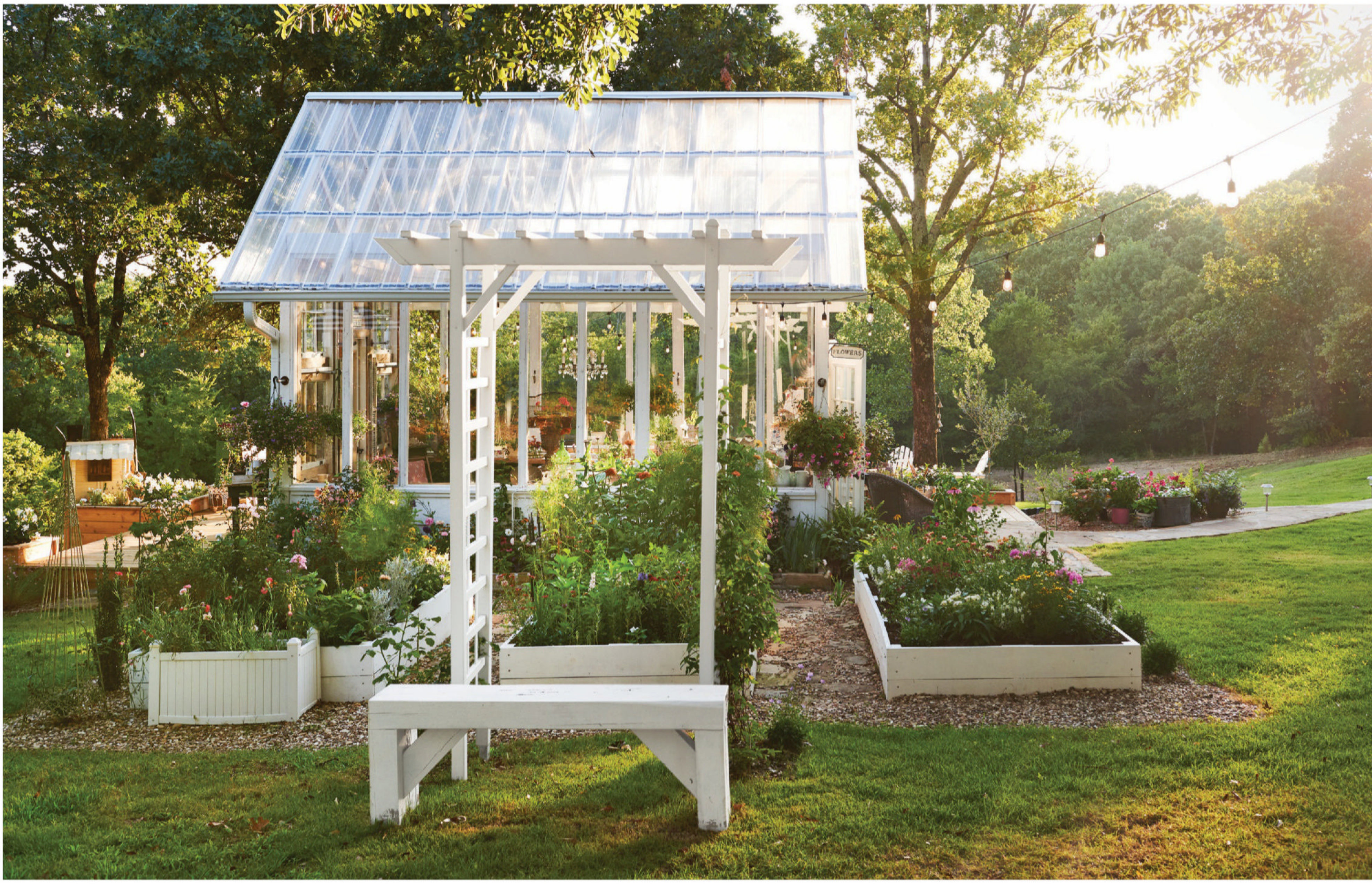
just down the road. Their devotion was needed when a brutal windstorm blew through one spring. “The tops of all of our large trees were swirling around and we had 90-mph winds,” Kerri says. “The largest tree in front of the greenhouse split and fell right on the front of it. Even in the rain, my sister, her boyfriend, my dad, my daughter, her best friend, my nephew, and his fiancée were all out there in raincoats helping us clear it off. We had an assembly line of people carrying off the limbs as they were being cut from the massive tree. We worked all day and had it all cleared off in a day’s time. It was an amazing family effort.”

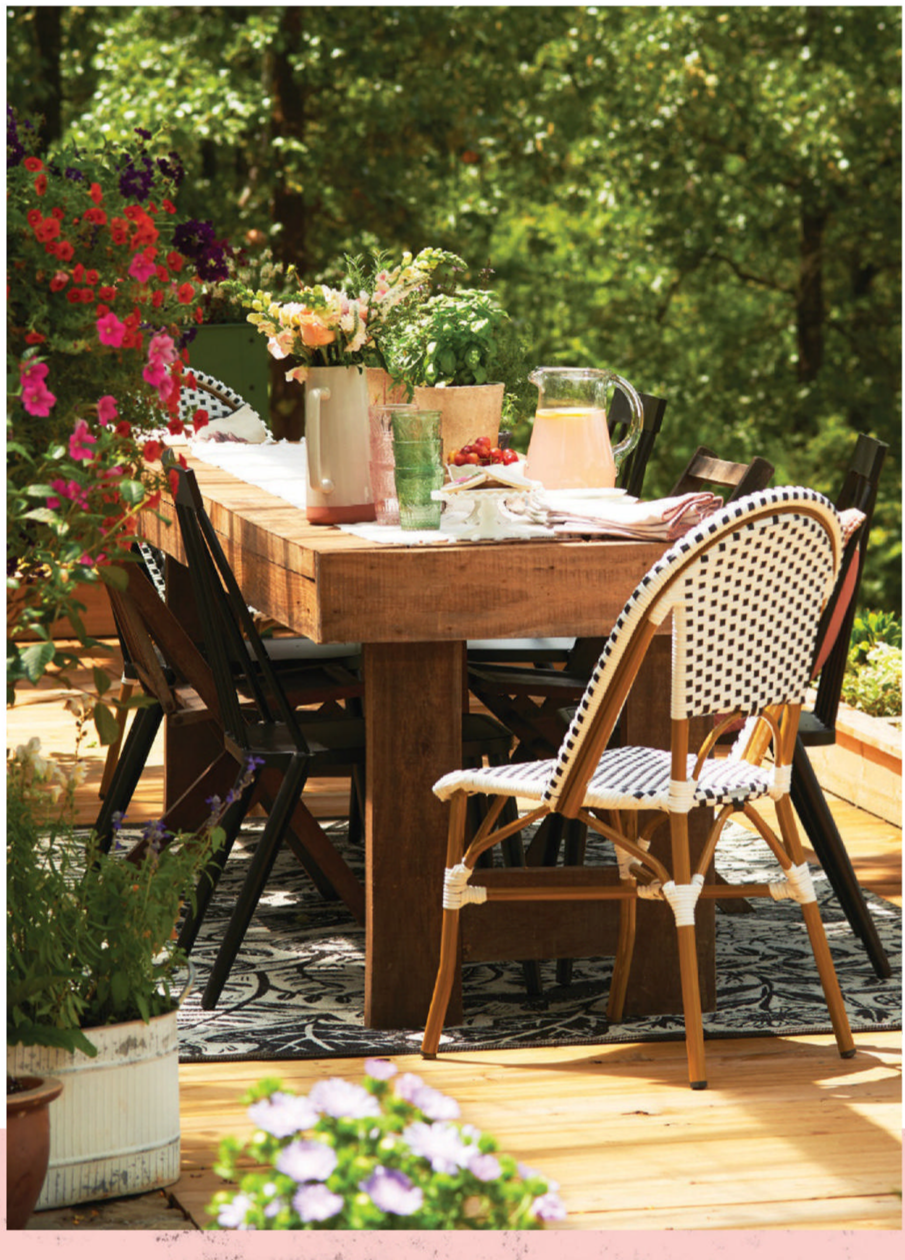
Friends and family aren’t the only ones who love the glass haven. Kerri, who blogs about her gardening experiences on Instagram (@bloom_greenhouse), has found a supportive community who loves to see her enchanting photos of the sun rising and setting on the greenhouse, with the string lights twinkling over the deck. It’s her place to unwind from her corporate job in transportation technology and to escape, dream, and plan, including for her nephew’s wedding shower they’re hosting in their backyard. “My sister and I are putting together lots of ideas for it,” she says. “We’re always up to something out in the greenhouse. It’s truly become our gathering place.” ◆

For resources, see page 94.


FRESH CUT FLOWERS
TULIPS - ROSES - PEONIES
FLOWERS
FARM HOUSE

THIS PHOTO: Vintage windows came together like a puzzle to create the greenhouse.



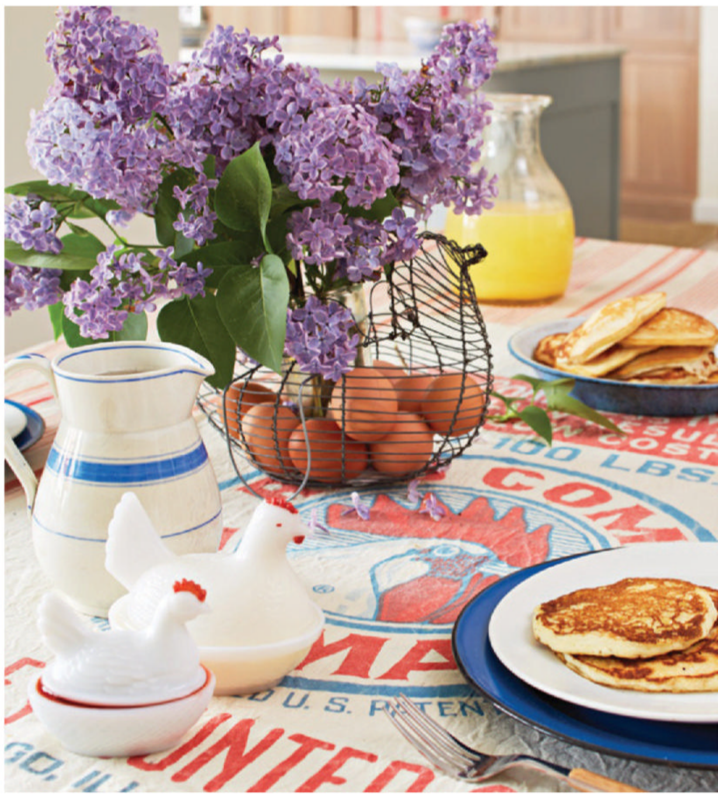


TOP: Kerri and Barry painted the greenhouse and cedar raised beds the same shade of white, Valspar Star Magnolia, to create a cohesive look. "Whenever we need to touch up something, we just go grab the can of Star Magnolia," Kerri says. ***ABOVE***: One of Kerri's favorite go-to places to find decor and signs is online at Antique Farmhouse (antiquefarmhouse.com). ***LEFT***: Barry made the dining table from the pine trees his grandfather had grown. Kerri wanted a narrower top to make it easy to navigate around on the deck but long enough for their extended family to gather. Two Parisian-style café chairs anchor the table ends—a little splurge to add some pattern.

perfect LITTLE PARTIES

Make small gatherings more memorable with vintage country pieces and pretty garden blooms.

WRITTEN BY SHAILA WUNDERLICH
PHOTOGRAPHED BY KRITSADA
PRODUCED BY KARIN LIDBECK-BRENT



SERVE A DOWN-HOME Breakfast

THE GATHERING: A 1930s American farmhouse breakfast invites folks to gather around this iconic country spread. The subtle anchoring palette of red, white, and blue looks both traditional and fresh with its mix of patterns. On the table are practical, make-do tableware items commonly found in the cupboards and cabinets of rural kitchens—and now found in flea markets everywhere.

THE IDEAS: These implements represent the staples of Depression-era American kitchens: ironstone diner china, ticking-striped textiles, blue-and-white spongeware, graniteware coffeepots, and dainty milk-glass containers in chicken and egg motifs.

FINISHING TOUCHES: A vintage feed sack laid flat against a red-and-white striped table linen is the platform for an antique wire egg basket. Inside the hen-shaped basket, fresh-cut lilacs in a clear-glass jar nestle in a clutch of real farm-fresh eggs (which don't need to be refrigerated).

Dad
Jack
Hailey
MAS
TED U. S. PATENT
TER Co
S. A
H.P. HOOD & SONS
DAIRY EXPERTS
ESTABLISHED 1846

BREW UP A *Tea Party*

THE GATHERING: Favorite things and folks are the ingredients for this intimate afternoon garden tea party. Summon a sister, mom, or girlfriend or two, and spend the afternoon poring over old photos and mementos.

THE IDEAS: Family heirlooms, vintage finds, plus scattered photographs and cards evoke memories and prompt conversation at teatime. Cover a small round table in a pastel-patterned hand-me-down quilt. On top, layer all the teapots, teacups, and saucers inherited from the mothers, aunts, and grandmothers in your life—or pieces lovingly collected. Tuck favorite photos between the coils of a vintage toast caddy. Serve sandwiches, cookies, and fruit in pretty footed glass compotes. For fun party favors, tins of Harney & Sons tea are placed in the dainty cups.

FINISHING TOUCHES: An old glass oil lamp with its wick removed becomes a lovely vase for showy peony blooms. Tall, curvaceous, clear-glass lamps make the best candidates for this upcycling trick.

PEACH GINGER

INVITE PERSONAL MEMENTOS AND FAVORITE COLLECTIBLES TO THE PARTY TO MAKE YOUR GATHERINGS EXTRA SPECIAL.

Invite Nature
TO THE TABLE

THE GATHERING: Flowers from the garden and pottery from the earth star in this bountiful, beautiful lunch.

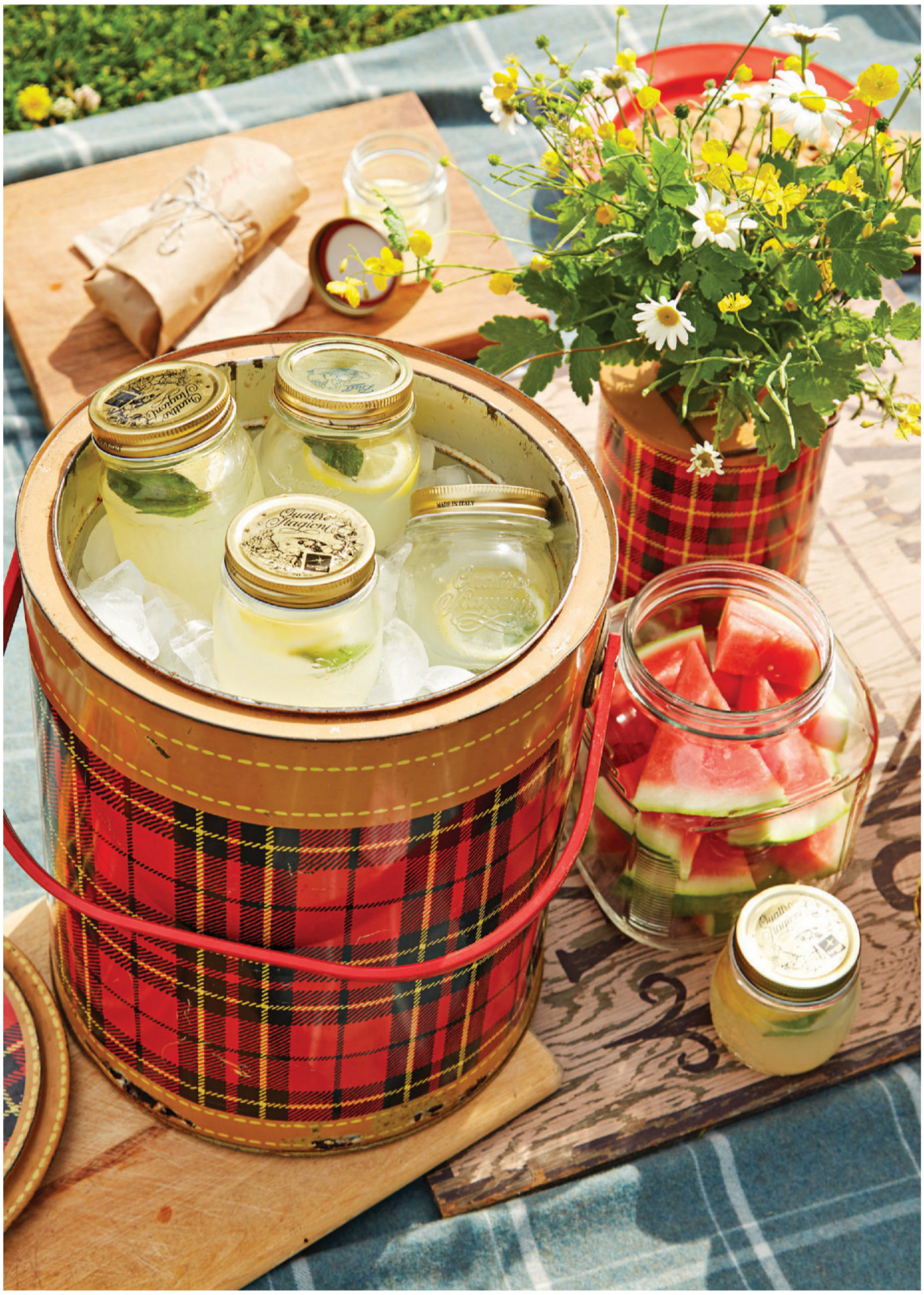
THE IDEAS: Primitive, raw textures and finishes are the aesthetic here, from the burlap-topped harvest table to the humble American ceramics on top of it. Classic country manufacturers McCoy and Fiesta are thematically on point with their natural pigments. Meanwhile, new stone bowls from the garden center become rustic serving pieces for an equally rustic salad of garden greens and edible flowers (nasturtiums, pansies, violets). Add a little whimsy with a pair of new garden trowels serving as tongs. Small waterproof notebooks are marked with a guest's name, festooned with sprigs, then tented at each setting.

FINISHING TOUCHES: In lieu of a single, large floral centerpiece, several smaller arrangements compose this one. On an old iron pedestal beneath a glass garden cloche, individual chocolates pile around a potted fern, awaiting the dessert course. Leggy allium blooms stretch out of a green glass hobnail vase. And an oblong, footed, antique ceramic planter holds more delicate and colorful blooms.

Michael
Stacy
Monica

VISITOR
PARKING
AREA

TAKE IT *Out Back*



THE GATHERING: When you want to get out of the house but not go far, create a memorable backyard picnic with retro finds.

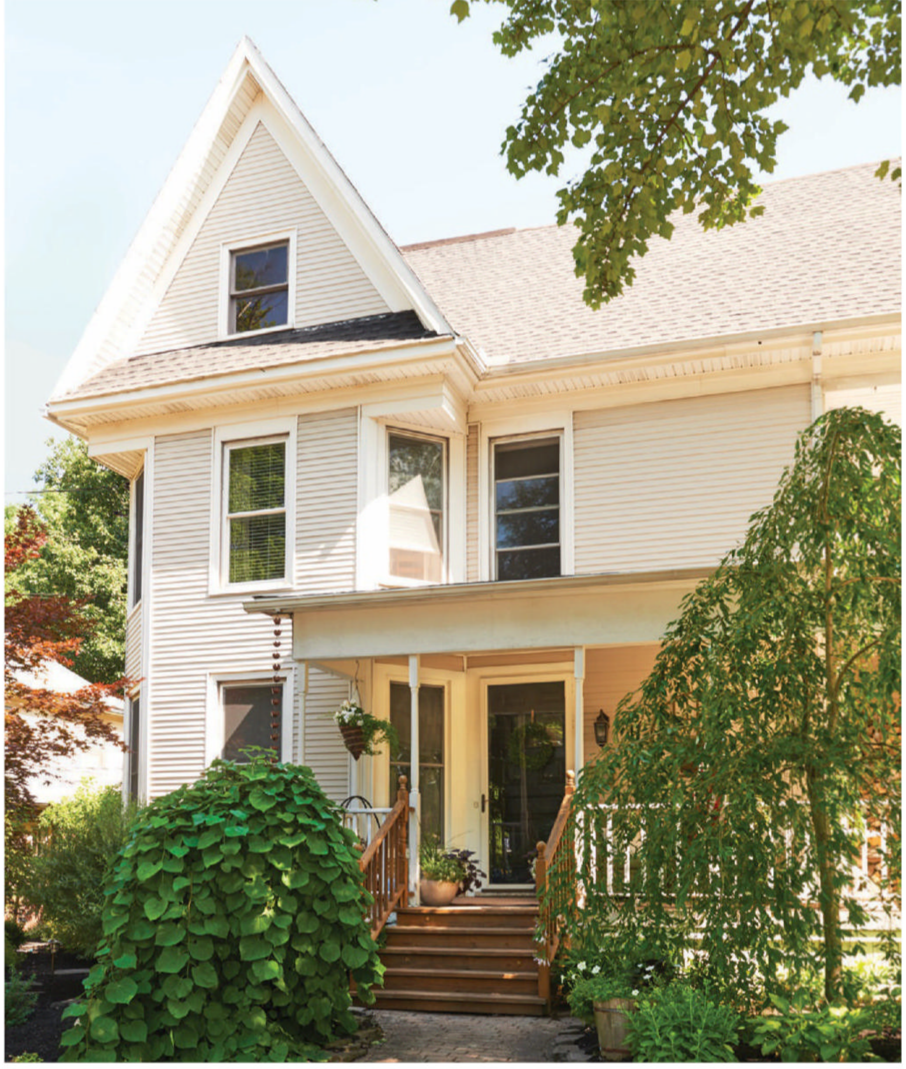
THE IDEAS: Proximity offers the chance to use larger, bulkier picnic collectibles not typically totable for off-road outings. Campy metal thermoses, coolers, and lunch boxes from the 1950s, ’60s, and ’70s are staples in flea markets, often available for $50 or less. Look for plaid motifs and manufacturer names like Car-Snac, Thermos, and Hamilton Skotch. Small, vintage cutting boards make great eating and serving surfaces in the uneven grass. Wrap sandwiches in paper and twine, and stock an old cooler with lidded glass canning jars full of lemonade. This setting’s softer side comes via a Pendleton wool blanket in blue-and-white plaid and a handful of throw pillows pulled from the living room.

FINISHING TOUCHES: For an unexpected touch and a more solid serving surface, place an antique wood sign in the center of the blanket and top it with flowers and food. A posy of spring wildflowers can be gathered during lunch and arranged in a thermos. ◆

For resources, see page 94.

IS
PARKI
AREA
Skylar

SKIP THE PLASTIC COOLER AND BOTTLED BEVERAGES, AND SPREAD OUT SOME CLEVER COLLECTIBLES FOR A CHEERY BACKYARD PICNIC.

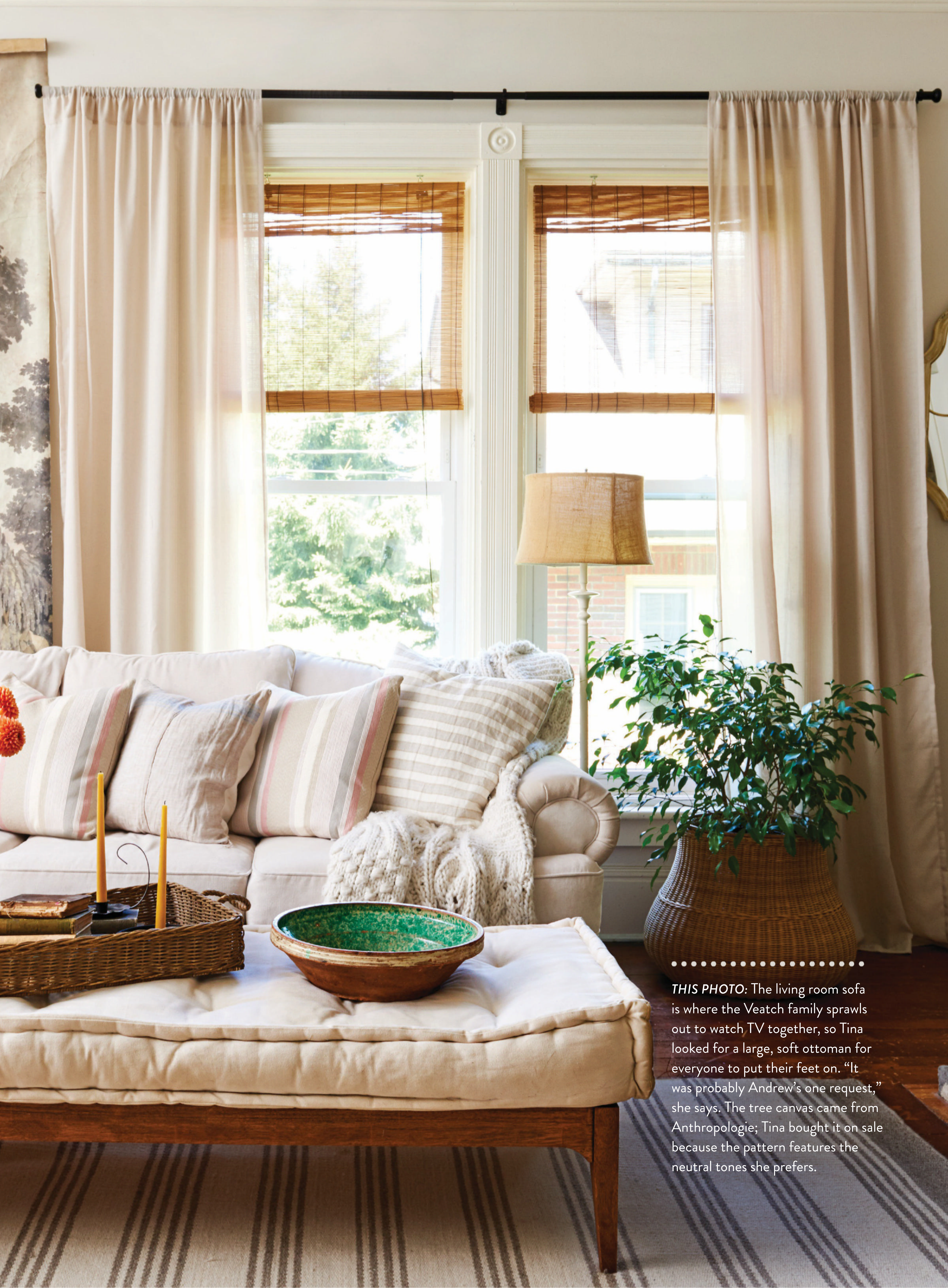


strategic STYLE

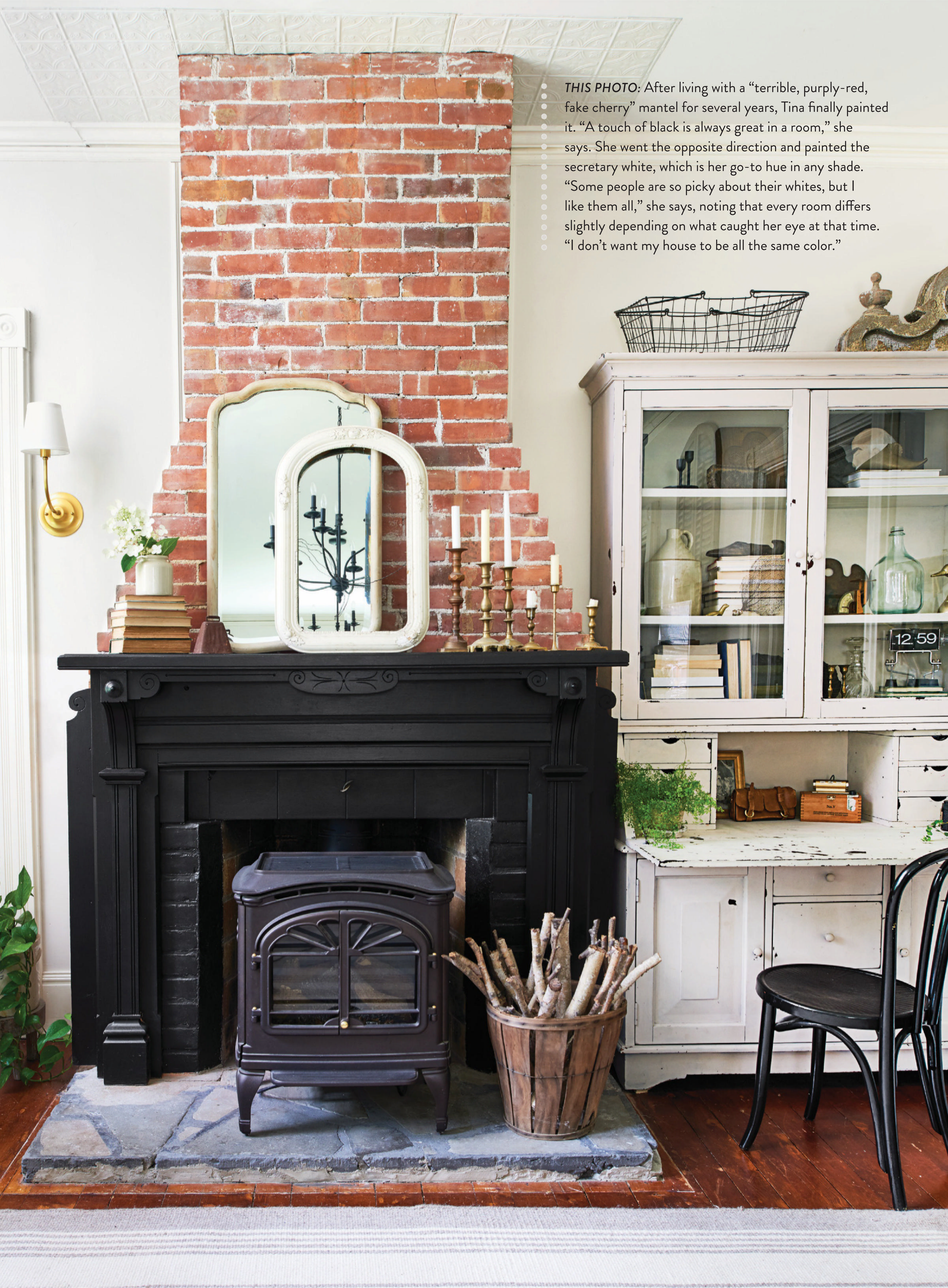
After buying a fixer-upper on a historical street, this self-taught designer used thrifty collecting skills to create a warm and personal family home.

WRITTEN BY SARAH EGGE **PHOTOGRAPHED BY** JAY WILDE
PRODUCED BY ANNA MOLVIK

ABOVE: Built in 1850, Tina and Andrew Veatch's Hamburg, New York, home has had many owners and iterations: It was once divided into two apartments. Just steps from the porch, Union Street is a thoroughfare to the charming downtown and Lake Erie.



THIS PHOTO: The living room sofa is where the Veatch family sprawls out to watch TV together, so Tina looked for a large, soft ottoman for everyone to put their feet on. “It was probably Andrew’s one request,” she says. The tree canvas came from Anthropologie; Tina bought it on sale because the pattern features the neutral tones she prefers.



THIS PHOTO: After living with a “terrible, purply-red, fake cherry” mantel for several years, Tina finally painted it. “A touch of black is always great in a room,” she says. She went the opposite direction and painted the secretary white, which is her go-to hue in any shade. “Some people are so picky about their whites, but I like them all,” she says, noting that every room differs slightly depending on what caught her eye at that time. “I don’t want my house to be all the same color.”

The table was a bit heavier than Tina Veatch expected when she turned it on its side and started rolling it down Union Street in Hamburg, New York. Solid oak with a chunky pedestal base, it threatened to get away from her as she maneuvered it home from a neighbor's garage sale. "I had no idea where it was going to go," Tina says with a laugh. With help from her kids and husband Andrew, a software engineer who often gets pulled into service unloading a garage sale haul, the table ended up in a spare sitting room they use for art and homework projects.

The family's 3,000-square-foot Victorian two-story accommodates all of Tina's finds. She's constantly restyling the home, assembling gorgeous vignettes that she posts for followers on her Instagram account. Her handle, @unionwillow, is a clue to the important role Union Street has played in her life since 2005, when she and Andrew parked there to walk into Hamburg with their then toddler, Molly. They lived on the outskirts of the quaint village on the shores of Lake Erie and wanted to be closer to the central historic neighborhood. "We saw an open house, and as soon as I walked in, I said, 'We have to try to buy this house,'" Tina says. Thankfully, the house, which had once been divided into two apartments and had a choppy layout, dropped into the couple's price range.

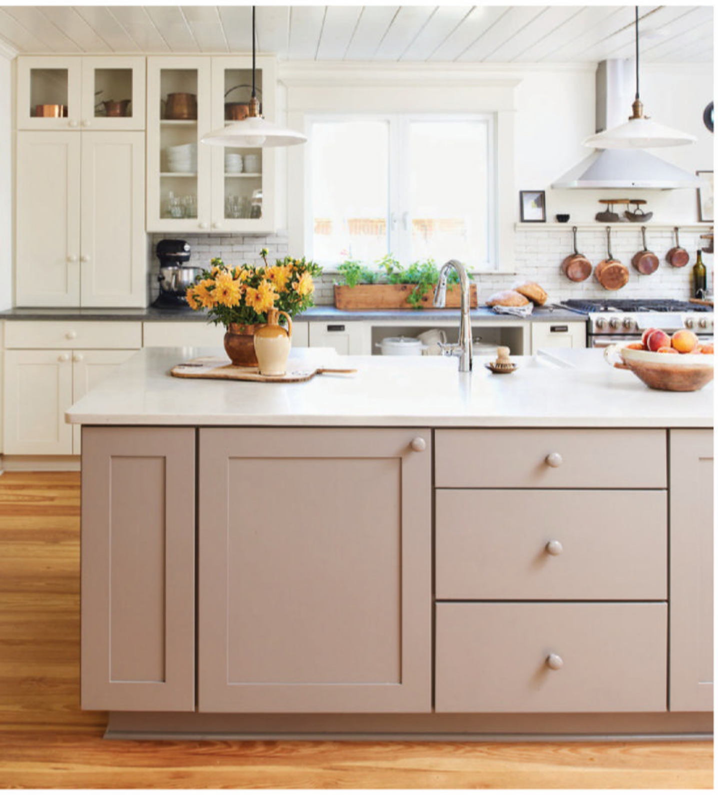
"For the first 10 years, we just painted and put in insulation and new windows," Tina says. They were busy raising baby daughters as Abby, Charlie, and Silvie joined the family. Slowly, they chipped away at projects, hitting a few surprises along the way. Like the time Andrew poked at the sagging drop ceiling in the living room only to have it come down in one huge chunk. "We had Abby in a baby buggy, and I just pushed her all the way outside as the whole house filled with plaster dust," Tina says.

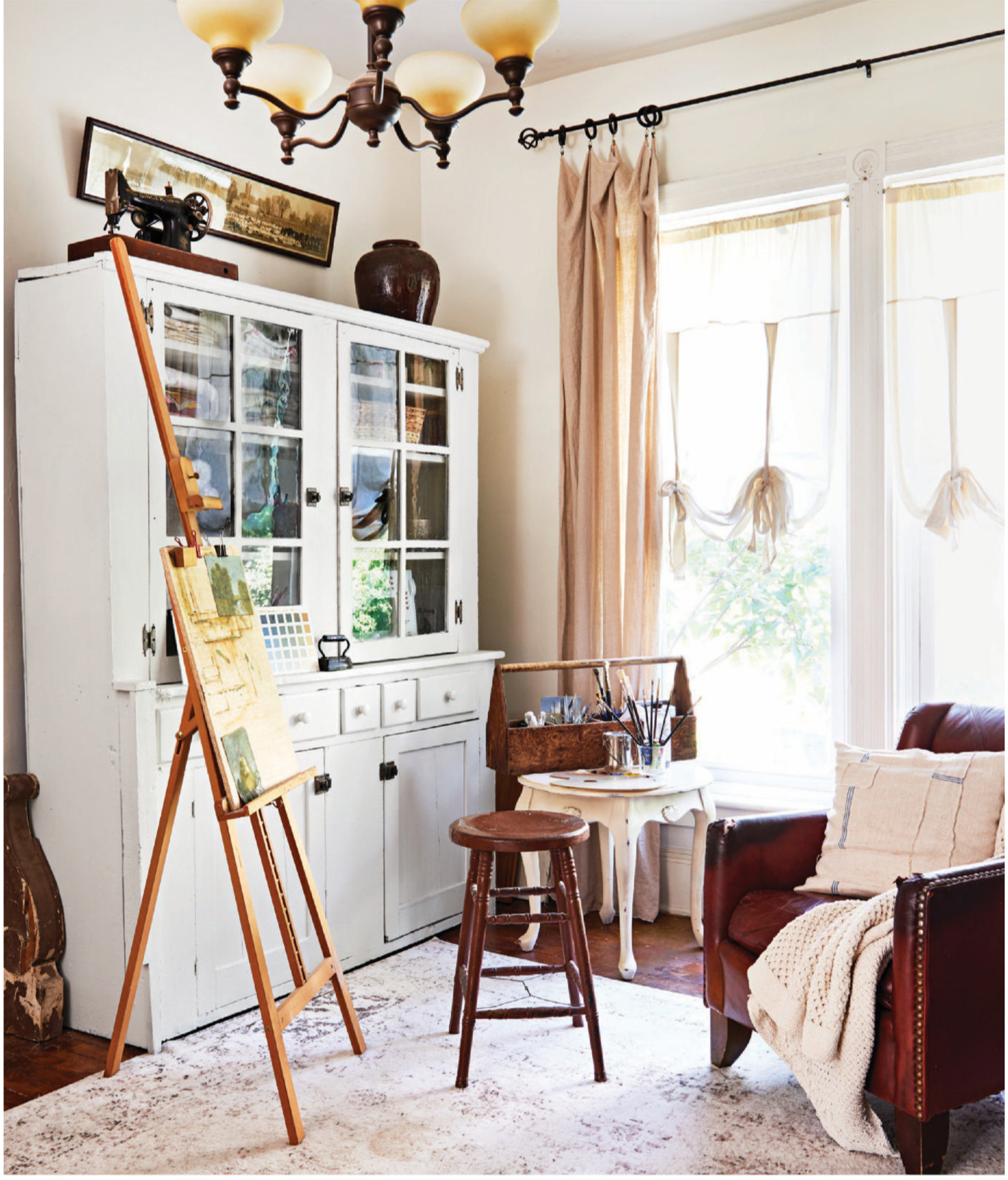
They did most of the work themselves—Andrew built a dining table and paneled the kitchen ceiling, Tina sewed curtains and pillows and painted every room in shades of white, and together they remodeled bathrooms. They eventually hired contractors for two big projects: remodeling the kitchen and renovating an enclosed porch into a bright laundry room.

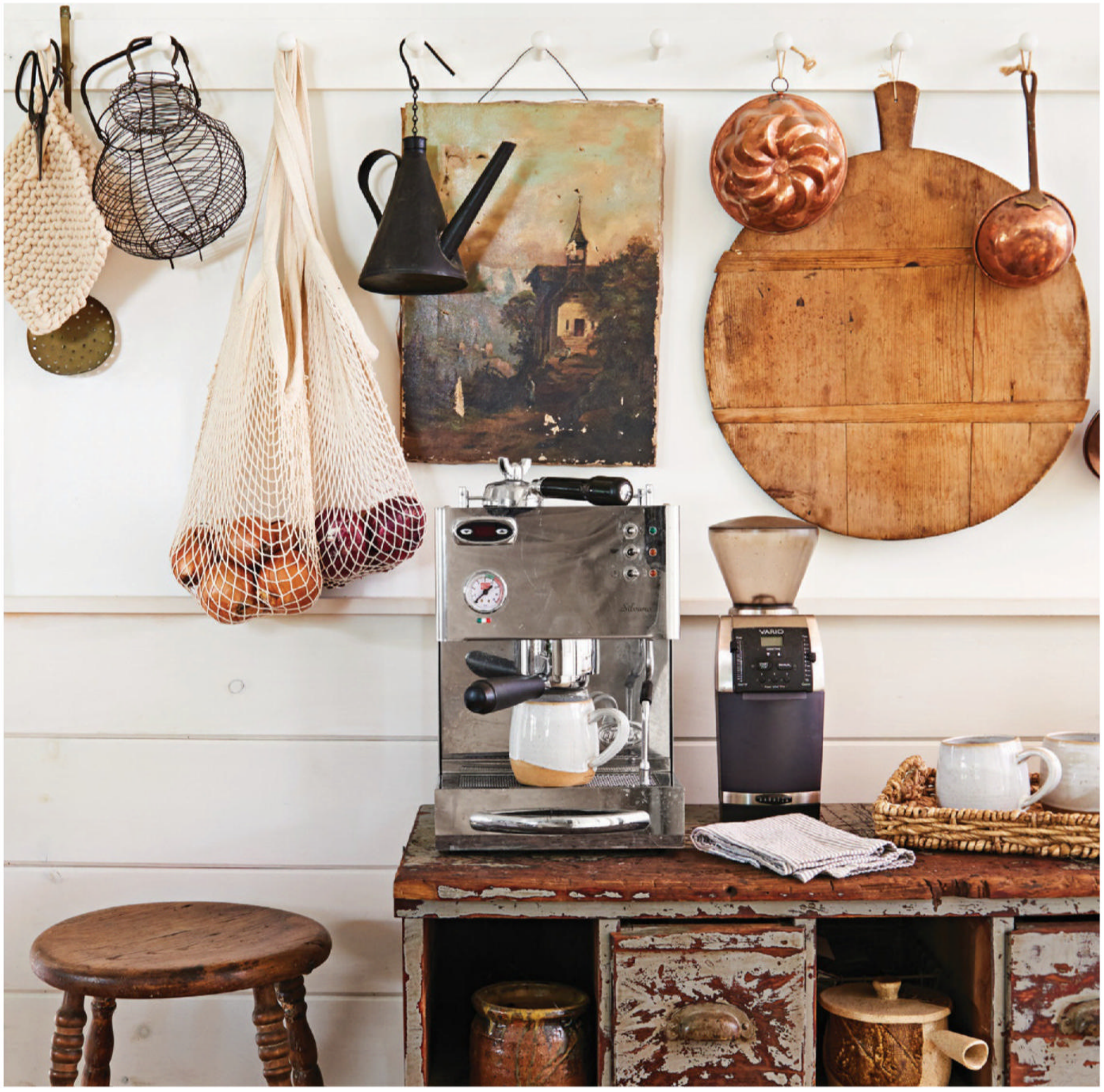
As the house evolved, Tina guided its style. "I always have a Pinterest board going for every project," she says. When they redid the girls' bathroom, she gathered images of spa-like spaces that led her and Andrew to install a

LEFT: In the living room corner, a medicine chest, table, and trunk share a similar worn patina for visual continuity. ***ABOVE:*** Tina used to have an Army green dining room and a rust-orange kitchen, "but everything started turning white about six years ago," she says. In this sitting room and elsewhere in the home, she sticks to neutrals with antique wood tones and a few punctuating shots of black. The exception is a garage sale mantel in a vivid green.

BELOW: The kitchen's tongue-and-groove paneled ceiling was a recent project. "When we redid the kitchen, we thought about pushing up the ceiling height, but we would have had to move plumbing. Now I'm glad we didn't. This seems more cozy," Tina says. She designed the island to be distinct from the main cabinets, using a different paint color and a marble-look quartz countertop.



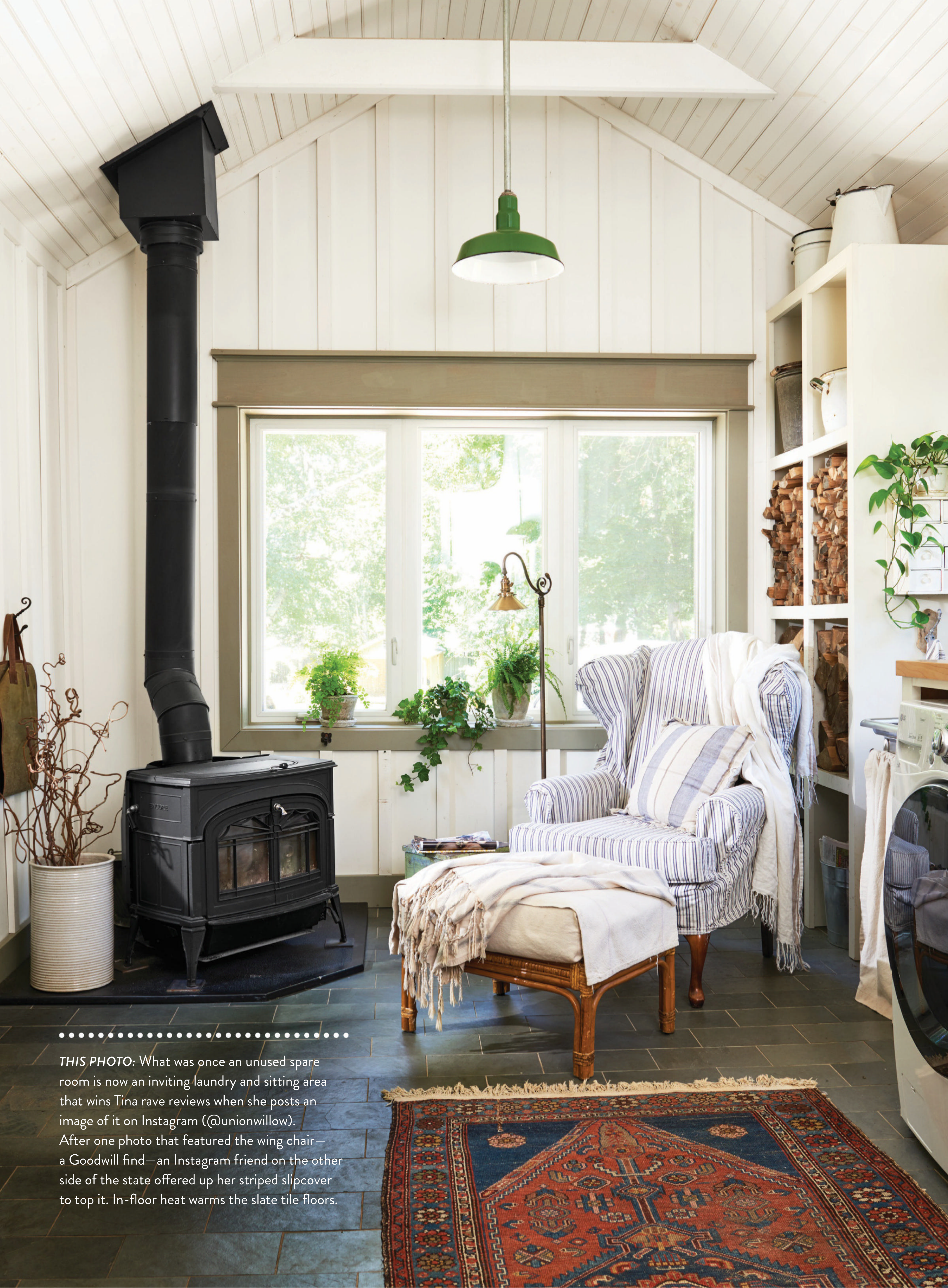




ABOVE: Tina carved out a spot for her new pastime: acrylic and oil painting. She found the old leather chair on Facebook Marketplace. Linen shades and curtains filter light from the large windows. A talented seamstress, she sews many of her home's dressings. ***LEFT:*** "'Antique cabinet' is probably my number one search on Facebook Marketplace," Tina says. This one came from an old country store "and weighs a zillion pounds." She added the peg rail to display favorite things, copper cookware, and an antique French breadboard she found at a local shop; it was just $12 because one of the boards had come loose. ***OPPOSITE:*** There was an unsightly drop ceiling in the dining room, and when Tina and her husband, Andrew, removed it, they discovered a second one. "It was already sagging, too, and when we pulled all that down, we saw the beauty of the old wood joists underneath," Tina says. The table was Andrew's first go at furniture-making. Tina filled in with a garage sale cabinet she painted white and chairs from a Tuesday Morning discount store.

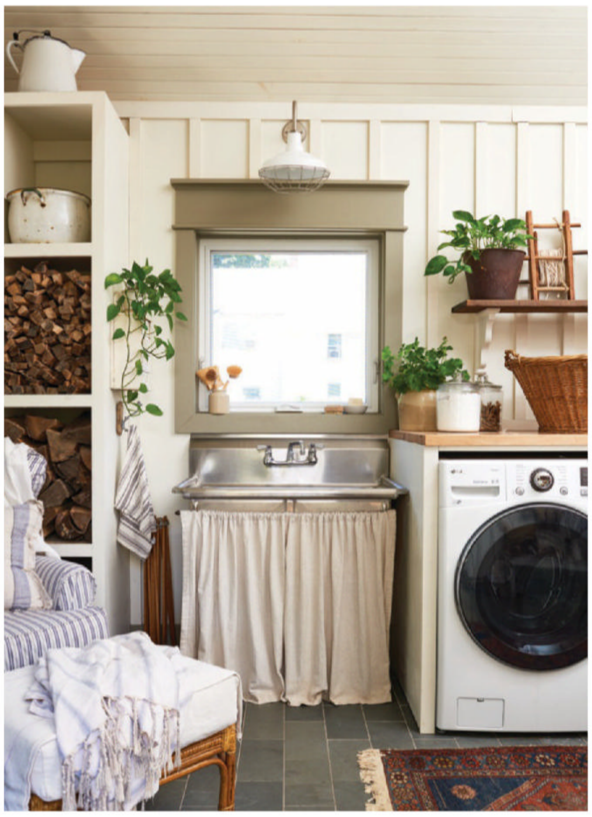
“IT’S SO FUNNY—WHEN I BUY THINGS I GRAB THINGS THAT PEOPLE WERE PROBABLY THINKING THEY *should have trashed* INSTEAD OF PUT IN THE SALE. BUT I GET SO EXCITED ABOUT THEM.”

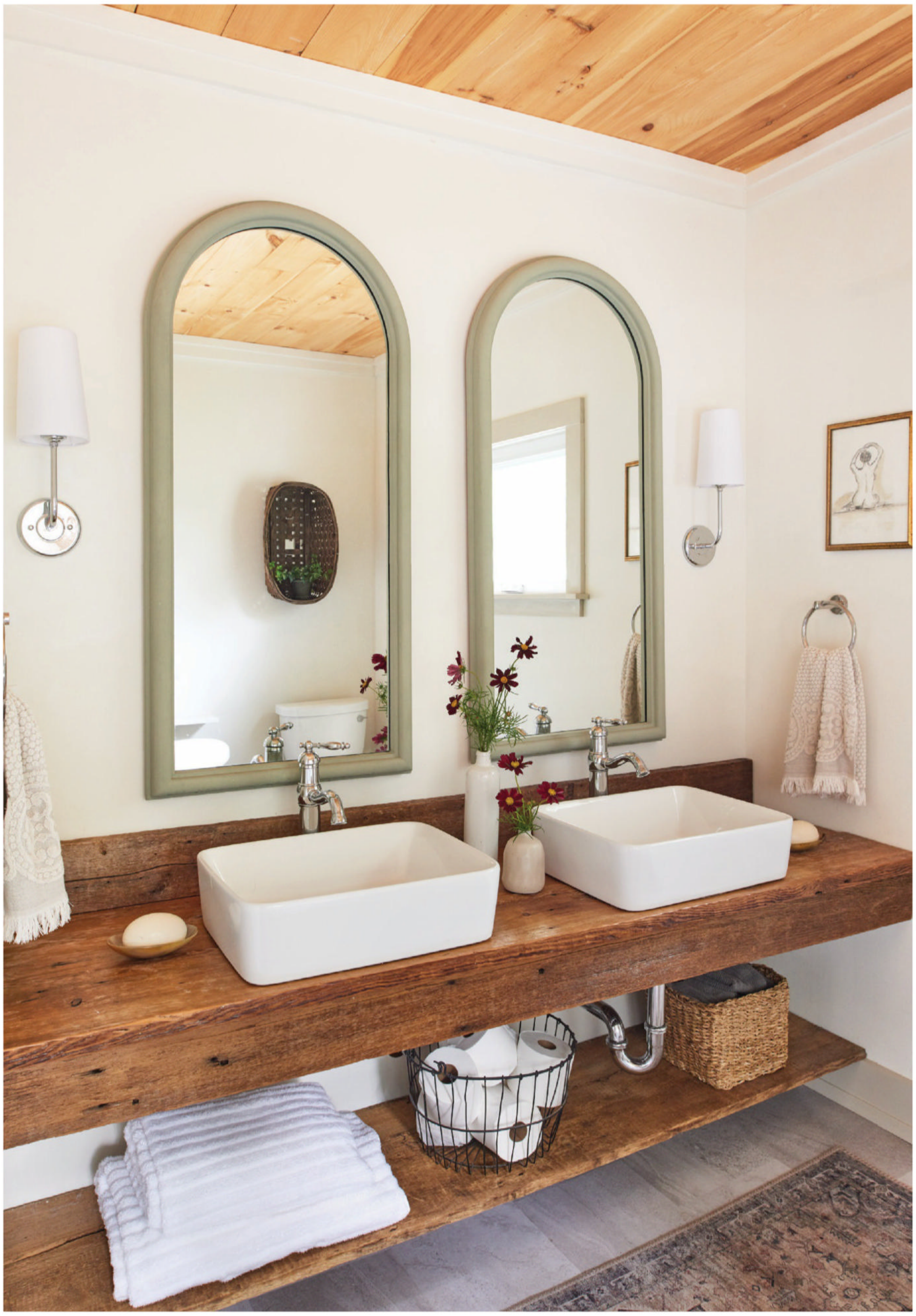
— **HOMEOWNER** TINA VEATCH



THIS PHOTO: What was once an unused spare room is now an inviting laundry and sitting area that wins Tina rave reviews when she posts an image of it on Instagram (@unionwillow). After one photo that featured the wing chair—a Goodwill find—an Instagram friend on the other side of the state offered up her striped slipcover to top it. In-floor heat warms the slate tile floors.

RIGHT: Tina and Andrew redid the girls' bathroom from top to bottom a few years ago. To construct the double-sink vanity, the couple bought salvaged barnwood from a friend down the street. ***BELOW:*** Tina says she used to put off doing laundry when it was located in the dank, spidery basement, but now the utility space is pretty and hardworking. She shows off collectibles, such as enamelware, on various shelves.





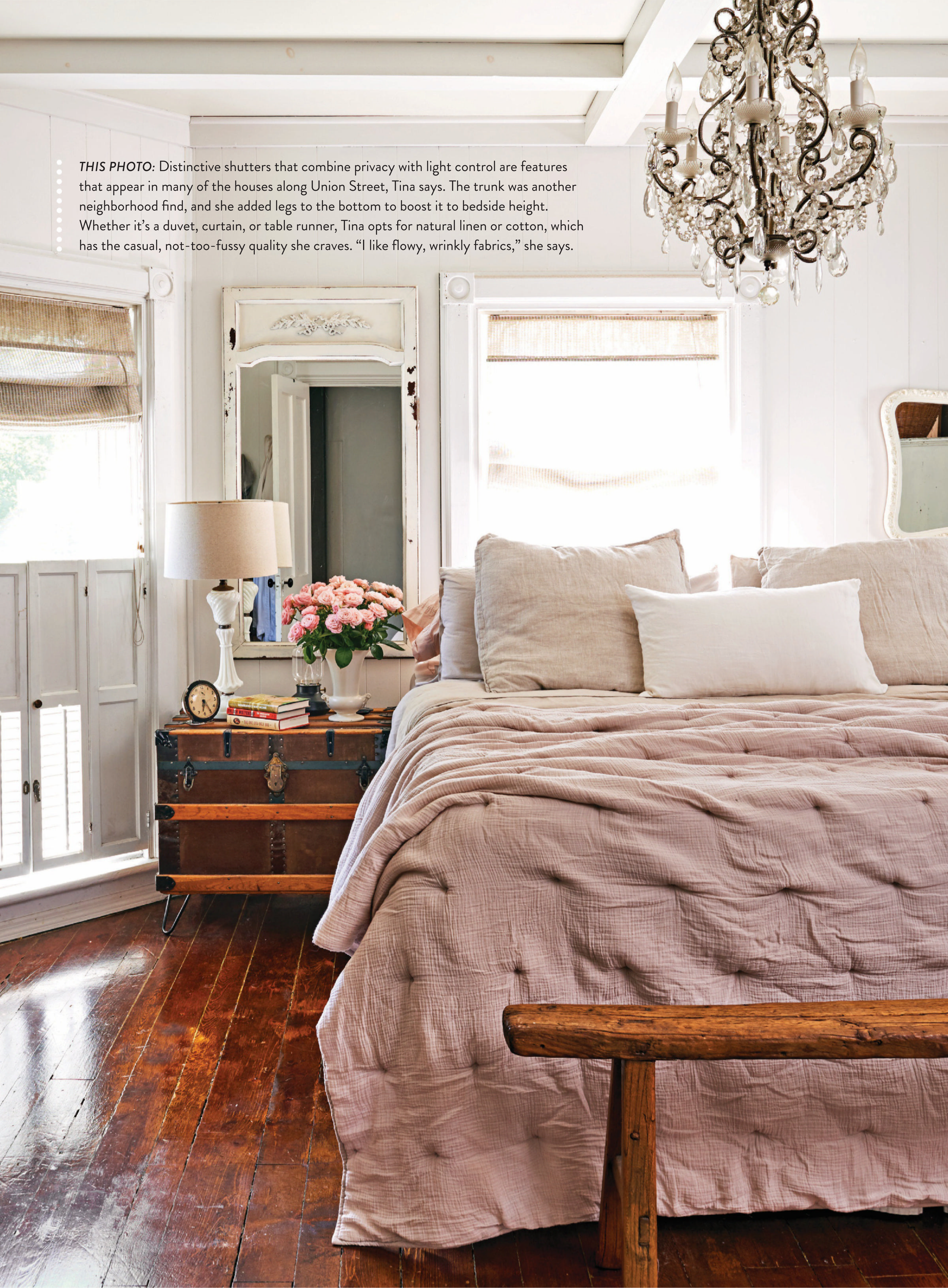
knotty pine ceiling, a soaking tub, and a large double vanity built from old barn lumber. (Naturally, the wood came from a Union Street neighbor.) Though the process took place over decades, the overall look is consistent. "I wanted it to be cozy and inviting and lived-in," Tina says. "When friends ask what to do with their houses, I always give them the same short list: Bring in rugs, blankets, pillows, baskets, and plants."

Tina grew up nearby in a converted antique barn and has always enjoyed collecting. She and her mom head out every Friday morning to hit the area sales. Tina looks for things that add to her aesthetic, which she describes as old, collected, and gathered. "If I want to redecorate something, it's my policy not to buy something at a store if I can help it. I'll go to a yard sale, get it passed down from family, or go to Goodwill," she says. "The result is that it's going to be unique. It's totally me."

Tina's approach is decidedly casual. When she brought home a medicine chest that was too rickety to install, she propped it on a small table instead and built an arrangement around it. "It's not a process at all. I'm not picky, and I don't overthink things," she says. When she gets too many of something (mirrors and baskets are particular weaknesses), she passes them along.

Recently, the family walked to get ice cream, so she dropped off an extra basket at a friend's house—three doors down on Union Street. ◆

THIS PHOTO: Distinctive shutters that combine privacy with light control are features that appear in many of the houses along Union Street, Tina says. The trunk was another neighborhood find, and she added legs to the bottom to boost it to bedside height. Whether it's a duvet, curtain, or table runner, Tina opts for natural linen or cotton, which has the casual, not-too-fussy quality she craves. "I like flowy, wrinkly fabrics," she says.



ABOVE LEFT: Tina painted the cupboard, which was her grandmother's china cabinet, and moved it upstairs so she could feature linens behind the glass door. The sliding barn door is new; Andrew built it when they redid the bathroom behind it. ***ABOVE:*** Tina grew up in Hamburg and persuaded Andrew to move there when they started a family. From left are Silvie, Charlie, Molly, and Abby; they join their parents on the shed's newly built porch. "I wish it was a she-shed, but it holds garden tools," Tina says. She added design flourishes, including the porch, barn doors, and windows. ***LEFT:*** Everyone enjoys the deep soaking tub, which makes perfect use of space in front of the windows in what was probably once a sleeping porch. The light fixture from Etsy is new, but the wall shelf is an old idea. "The shelf is something I saw online in a lot of old houses and old bathrooms," Tina says. ***BELOW LEFT:*** Hydrangeas fill an old iron garden urn placed on a table runner Tina sewed from soft linen. ***BELOW:*** Tina bought the potting bench for $20 from a man who repurposes wood pallets. "The older I get, the more my house is getting taken over by plants," she says. "I love something green and bright among all the wood."

> **"FROM THE BEGINNING I KNEW MY DREAM WAS ALWAYS TO *find an old house* AND FIX IT UP. WE JUST DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME AND MONEY IT WOULD TAKE."**
>
> — TINA VEATCH

stitches IN TIME

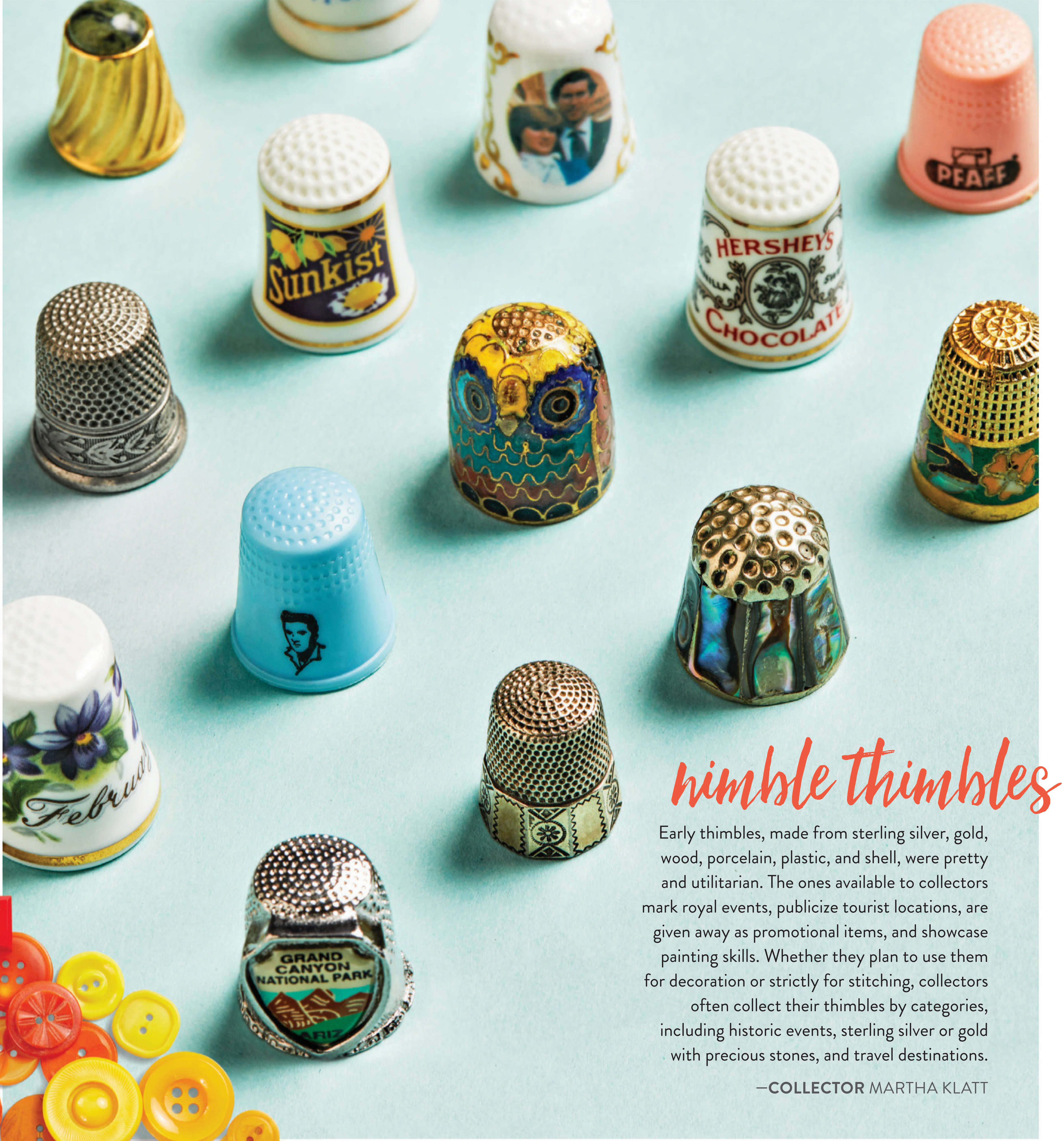
From embroidery to crochet to quilting, the needle arts are having a moment. Chalk it up to the “cottagecore” movement, where folks are embracing a simpler aesthetic that harks back to skills and crafts used in decades past. As a result, collectors report an uptick in popularity of sewing-theme collections of all types. The category is fun and affordable—and perfect for the flea market sleuther. We asked collectors for favorite categories, and here’s what we learned.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JASON DONNELLY, CARSON DOWNING, BRIE GOLDMAN, AND BLAINE MOATS
PRODUCED BY ELIZABETH STUMBO

hot irons

Before there were electric types, flat irons heated on the stove were used to de-wrinkle fabric. The weight of an iron allowed it to hold heat as well as press fabric flat. In 1870, Mary Florence Potts was awarded a patent for an iron that had a point on both ends, which allowed a user to iron in both directions and around buttons. Today antique irons are used as decorative pieces, such as bookends.

—**COLLECTOR** CAROLE VOSS



nimble thimbles

Early thimbles, made from sterling silver, gold, wood, porcelain, plastic, and shell, were pretty and utilitarian. The ones available to collectors mark royal events, publicize tourist locations, are given away as promotional items, and showcase painting skills. Whether they plan to use them for decoration or strictly for stitching, collectors often collect their thimbles by categories, including historic events, sterling silver or gold with precious stones, and travel destinations.

—**COLLECTOR** MARTHA KLATT

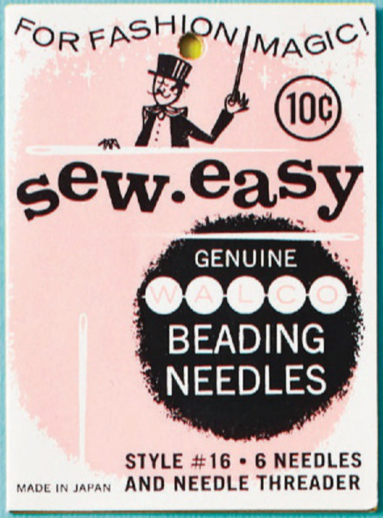
button up

Buttons are a wonderful collectible because they take up a small amount of space, plus they're affordable and easy to find. Made from a variety of materials—brass, glass, horn, mother of pearl, plastic, precious metals, resin, and wood—buttons often are displayed in glass jars and bowls as colorful decorative accents. For more information on collecting buttons, visit the National Button Society (*nationalbuttonsociety.org*) or attend a show hosted by a state or local button-collecting club. You will find buttons on display, for sale, and up for auction. The shows also might include educational sessions and competitions for youth collectors.

—**COLLECTOR** JODY SANDERS

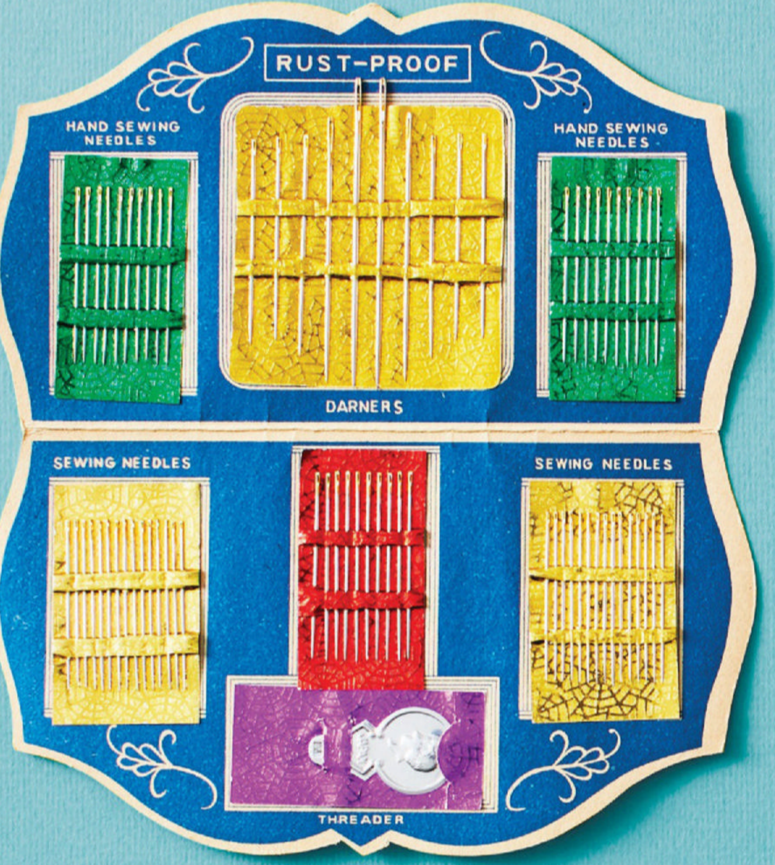
SEWING SUSAN
85 GOLD EYE NEEDLES WITH THREADER

A stitch in time
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9


FOR FASHION MAGIC!
10¢
sew.easy
GENUINE
WALCO
BEADING NEEDLES
STYLE #16 • 6 NEEDLES AND NEEDLE THREADER
MADE IN JAPAN

A Gift FROM
Gambles
HOME guard
SUPER QUALITY
PAINT HEADQUARTERS
GAMBLE-SKOGMO, INC. ★ MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

good books


RUST-PROOF
HAND SEWING NEEDLES
HAND SEWING NEEDLES
DARNERS
SEWING NEEDLES
SEWING NEEDLES
THREADER

Butter-Nut
the COFFEE

ALL GOLD EYE NEEDLE BOOK
QUEEN ROYAL
BEST QUALITY
LARGE GOLD EYES
SUPERFINE STEEL
GERMANY

When needle books were introduced in the late 19th century, they were utilitarian, with pocket-size covers shielding needles of one size. Over time, they graduated to elaborate cases with graphic full-color covers featuring advertising and needles in multiple sizes and types.

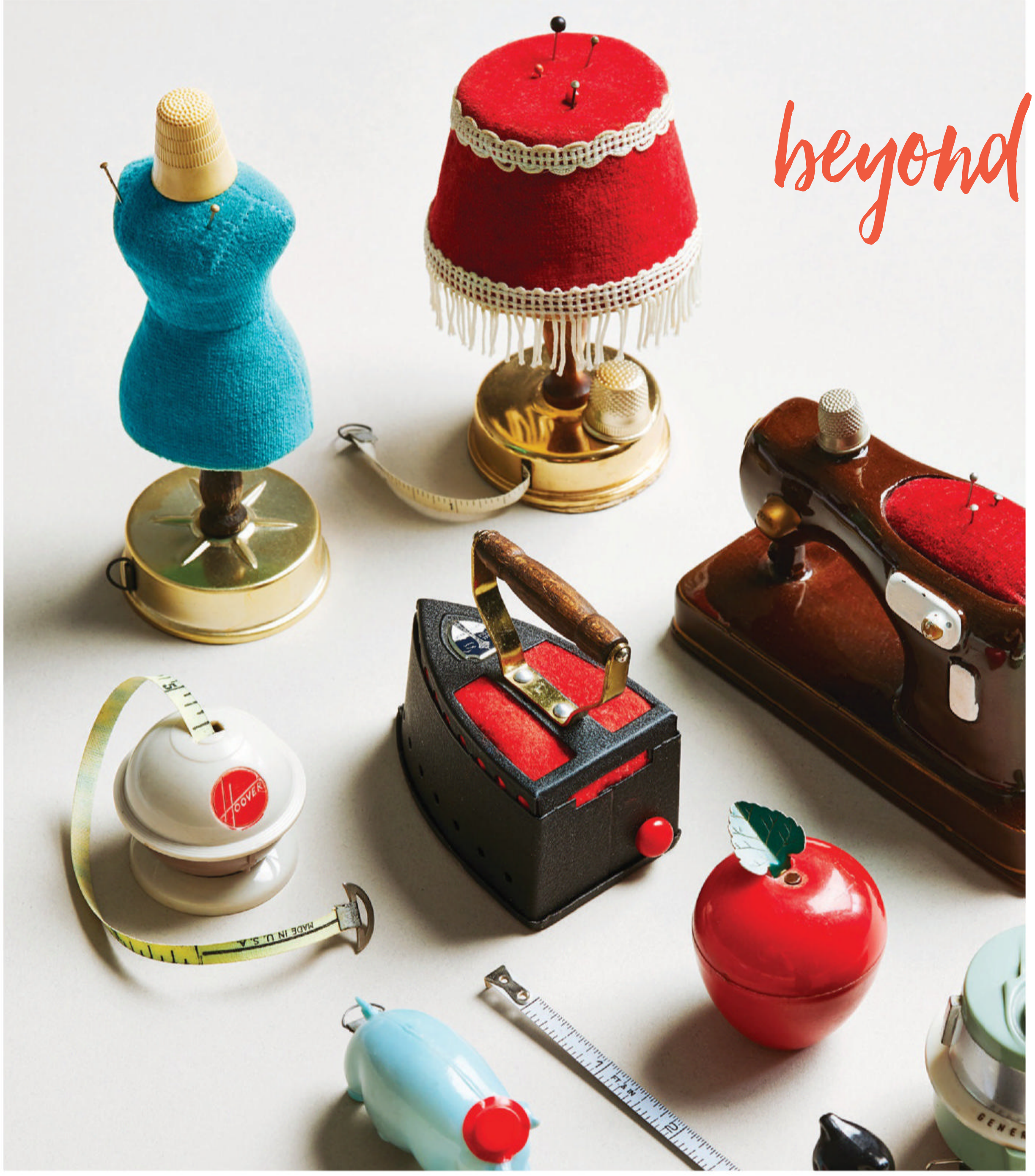
—**COLLECTOR**
MARTHA KLATT

60 needles
RUSTPROOF...NICKEL PLATED...GOLD EYE NEEDLES AND THREADER

ATOMIC
CONTAINS 85 ASSORTED NEEDLES AND 1 THREADER
GOLD EYE
MADE IN JAPAN

The Army and Navy Needle Book

The WEEKEND Needle Case



beyond measure

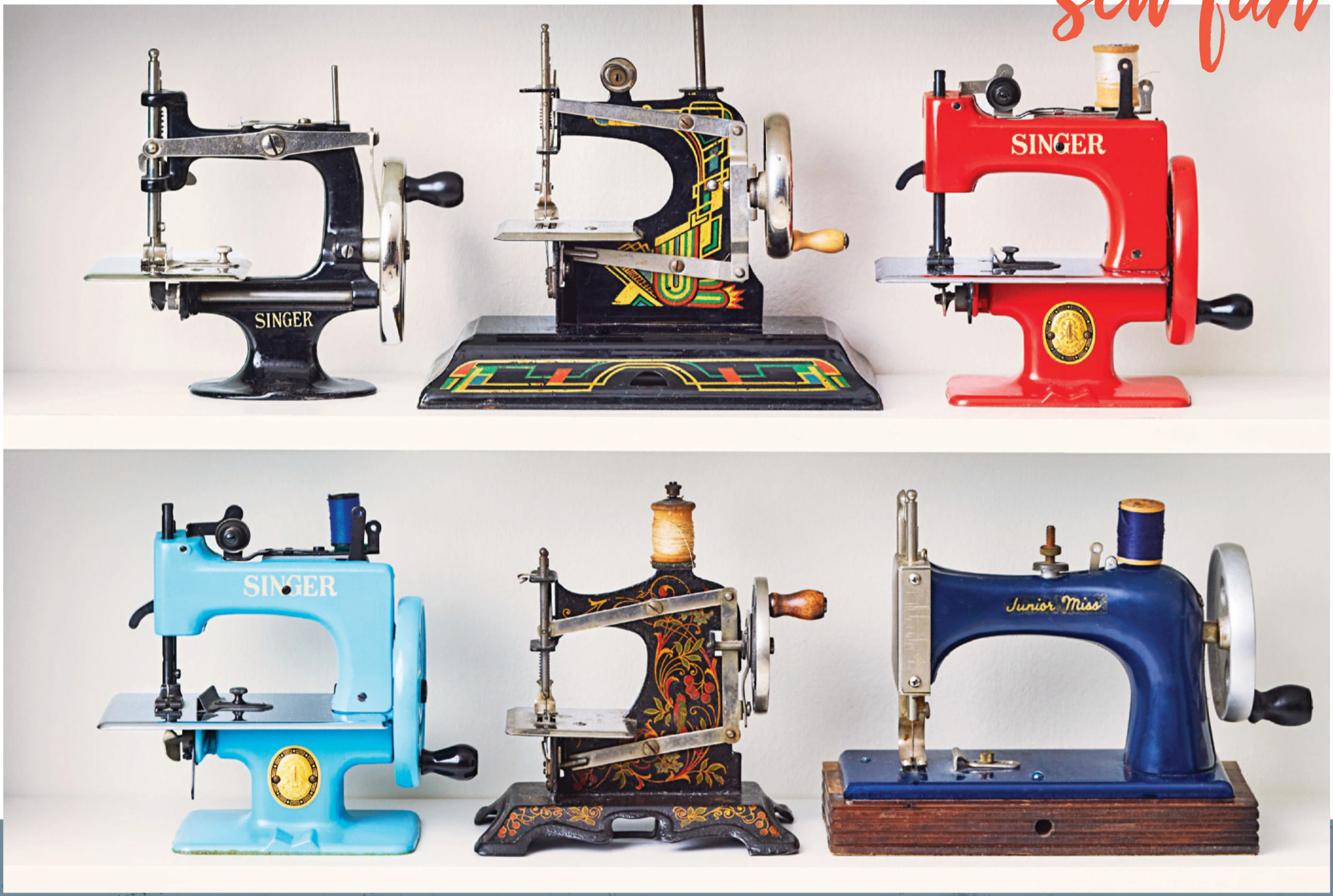
A measuring tape is a ruler made of flexible paper, metal, or plastic so it can be used to measure three-dimensional objects. Some, like those shown here, are retractable, and some have thimble holders and pincushions, making them multifunctional. In the early 1900s, advertisers began having them made in the shapes of their products, animals, or other recognizable figures. Today, vintage measuring tapes can be purchased on eBay or Etsy for a few dollars or up to hundreds of dollars.

—**COLLECTOR** MARTHA KLATT

Not all vintage sewing machines were toys. Some were working machines that could be easily packed in a suitcase for sewing while on vacation or traveling. Today the value of a compact machine increases if the original box and instruction booklet exists. Colorful limited-run versions also fetch more money than standard black.

—**COLLECTOR** KAREN TAYLOR

sew fun



Treasure TROVE

A Seattle shop owner uses her decorating and collecting savvy to bring out the natural beauty of her midcentury modern ranch.

WRITTEN BY PAIGE PORTER FISCHER
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOHN GRANEN
STYLED BY JANNA LUFKIN

THIS PHOTO: Pam Robinson paired two distinctive sofas by upholstering them in vintage French linen. She created pillows out of blue and white fabrics she's been collecting for decades. With its glass insert, a carved wooden coffee table from the '40s serves as a dining table for casual get-togethers.

P

Pam Robinson sums up her personal style in five words: “I buy what I love.” As the owner of one of Seattle’s most beloved home design stores, Red Ticking, the antiques and vintage textiles aficionado travels the world for pieces that tell stories, outfitting her shop—and her home—with one-of-a-kind treasures that catch her eye and steal her heart.

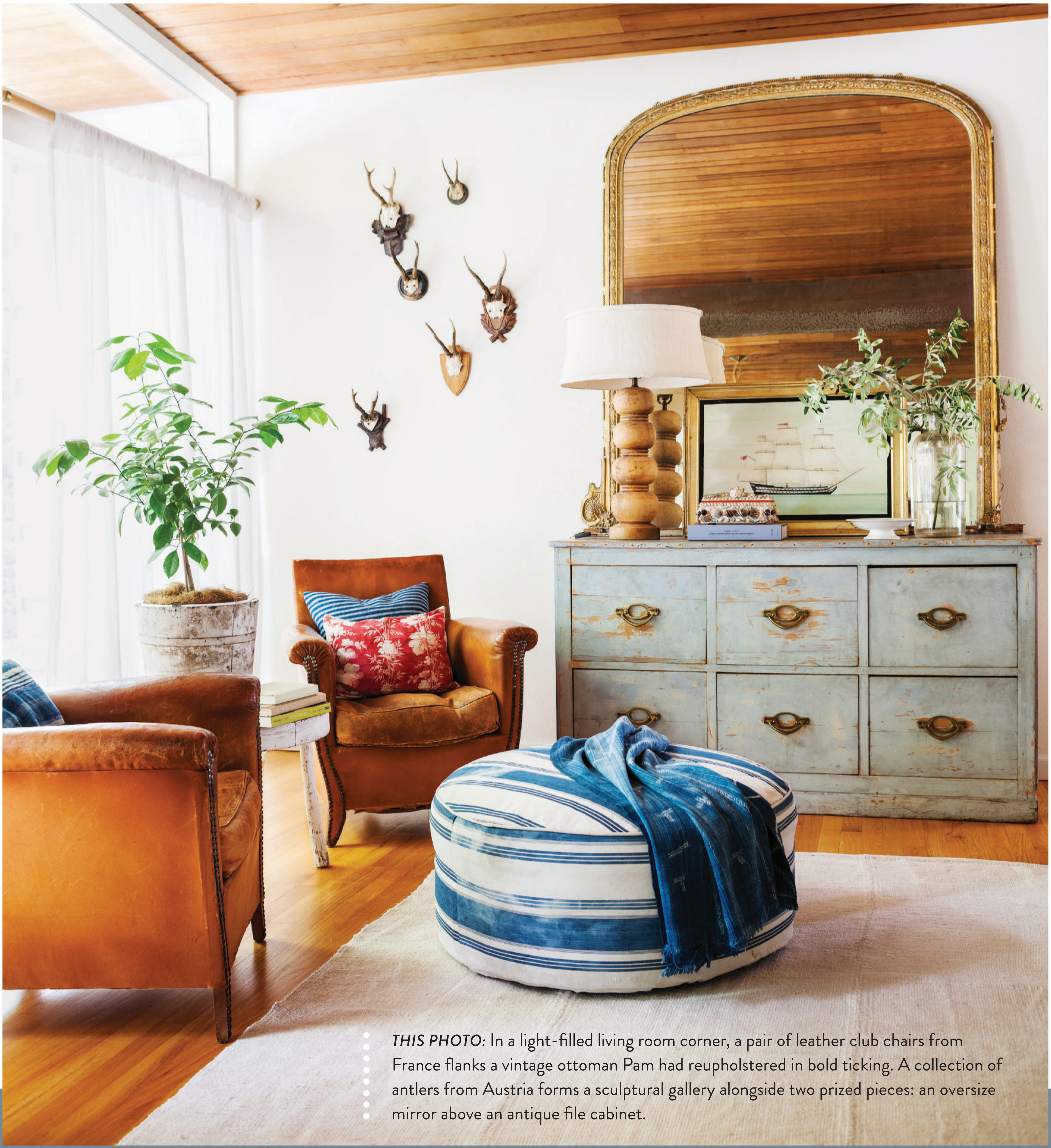
That’s precisely what happened when Pam first laid eyes on the midcentury modern house. “To be honest, I never imagined myself in a modern house,” she says. “This one was definitely a diamond in the rough. It was dark, and the interiors were so ugly that I honestly think the place would’ve frightened many people away. But I looked past its flaws and focused on the positives—like the open floor plan, the huge fireplace, and the outdoor living spaces—and I was sold. I just knew that it was supposed to be my home.”

The house, built in 1954 by an understudy of Frank Lloyd Wright, had beautiful bones, which Pam desperately wanted to bring back to life. “I’ve always been that person who loves the old chair at the flea market that everyone else walks past because it’s such an eyesore,” she says. “I’m the crazy one who buys it, because I’m determined to breathe new life into it and make it shine again. I’ve spent my life rescuing old, beautiful furniture and fabric, and I decided it was about time for me to rescue a house.”

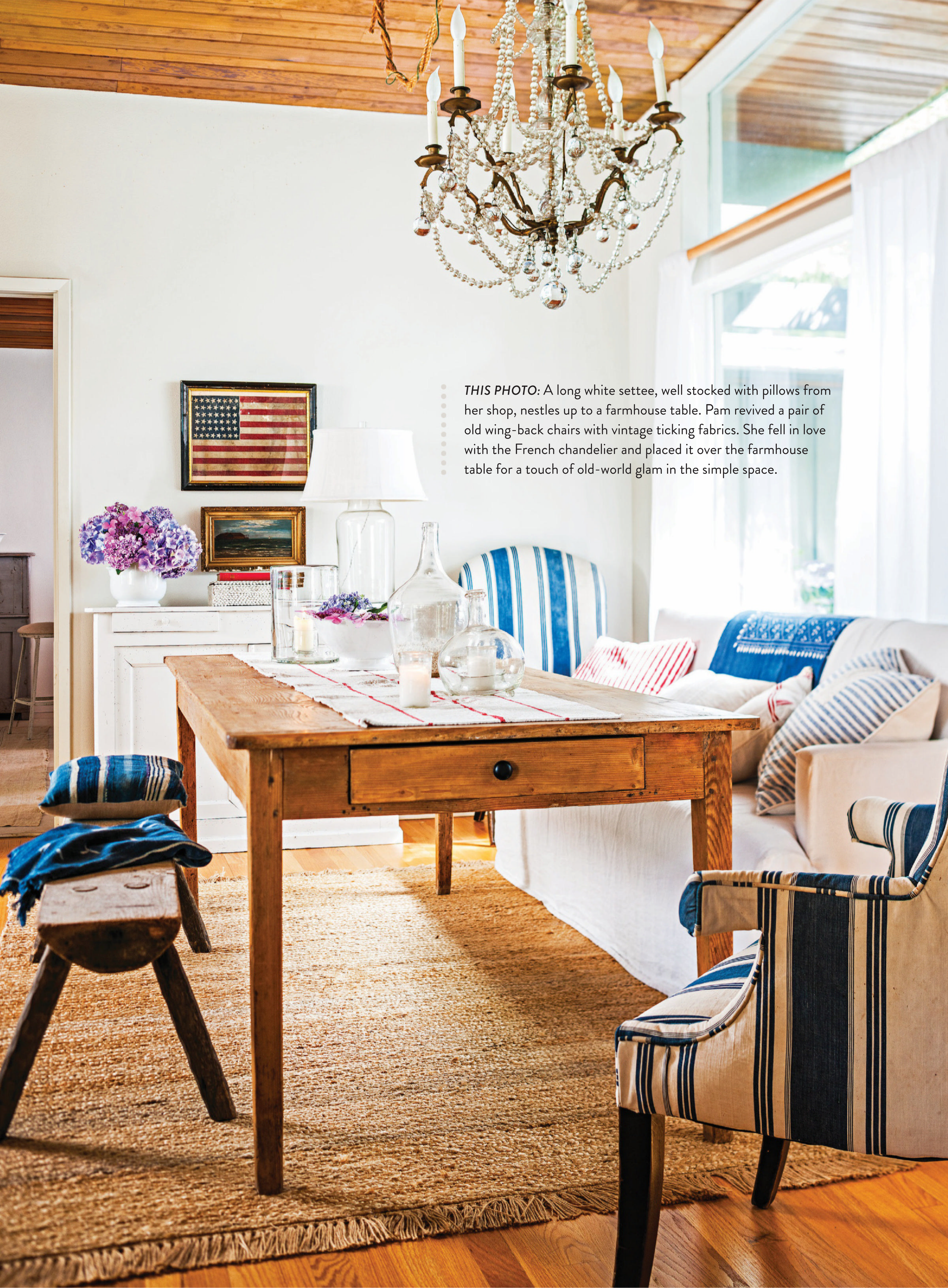
ABOVE: A hallway becomes a gallery for Pam’s vintage paintings and flag art. She scooted together two antique dressers to form a console, on top of which she stacked her favorite books. *RIGHT:* Pam fell for this old Swedish cabinet, once used to store firewood. “Sometimes it’s as much about the perfect well-worn color as it is about performing a certain function, and this one had a patina I just couldn’t pass up,” she says.

“WHEN I AM OUT SHOPPING, *people will sometimes ask me what I'm looking for.* MY ANSWER IS ALWAYS THE SAME: ‘I HAVE NO IDEA. BUT I'LL KNOW IT WHEN I SEE IT.’”

— **HOMEOWNER** PAM ROBINSON



THIS PHOTO: In a light-filled living room corner, a pair of leather club chairs from France flanks a vintage ottoman Pam had reupholstered in bold ticking. A collection of antlers from Austria forms a sculptural gallery alongside two prized pieces: an oversize mirror above an antique file cabinet.



THIS PHOTO: A long white settee, well stocked with pillows from her shop, nestles up to a farmhouse table. Pam revived a pair of old wing-back chairs with vintage ticking fabrics. She fell in love with the French chandelier and placed it over the farmhouse table for a touch of old-world glam in the simple space.

LEFT AND BELOW: "I want my guests to come in and feel cozy and snug," says Pam of her guest quarters. An antique armoire houses her stash of vintage textiles, which she often finds her guests "looking at like magazines." Extra-long reading pillows from Red Ticking stand in for a headboard. An ikat remnant from France adds a graphic punch to the foot of the bed; baskets hold surplus linens. ***BELOW:*** "Fabric is my passion," says Pam, who started stockpiling it years ago on trips to Europe.

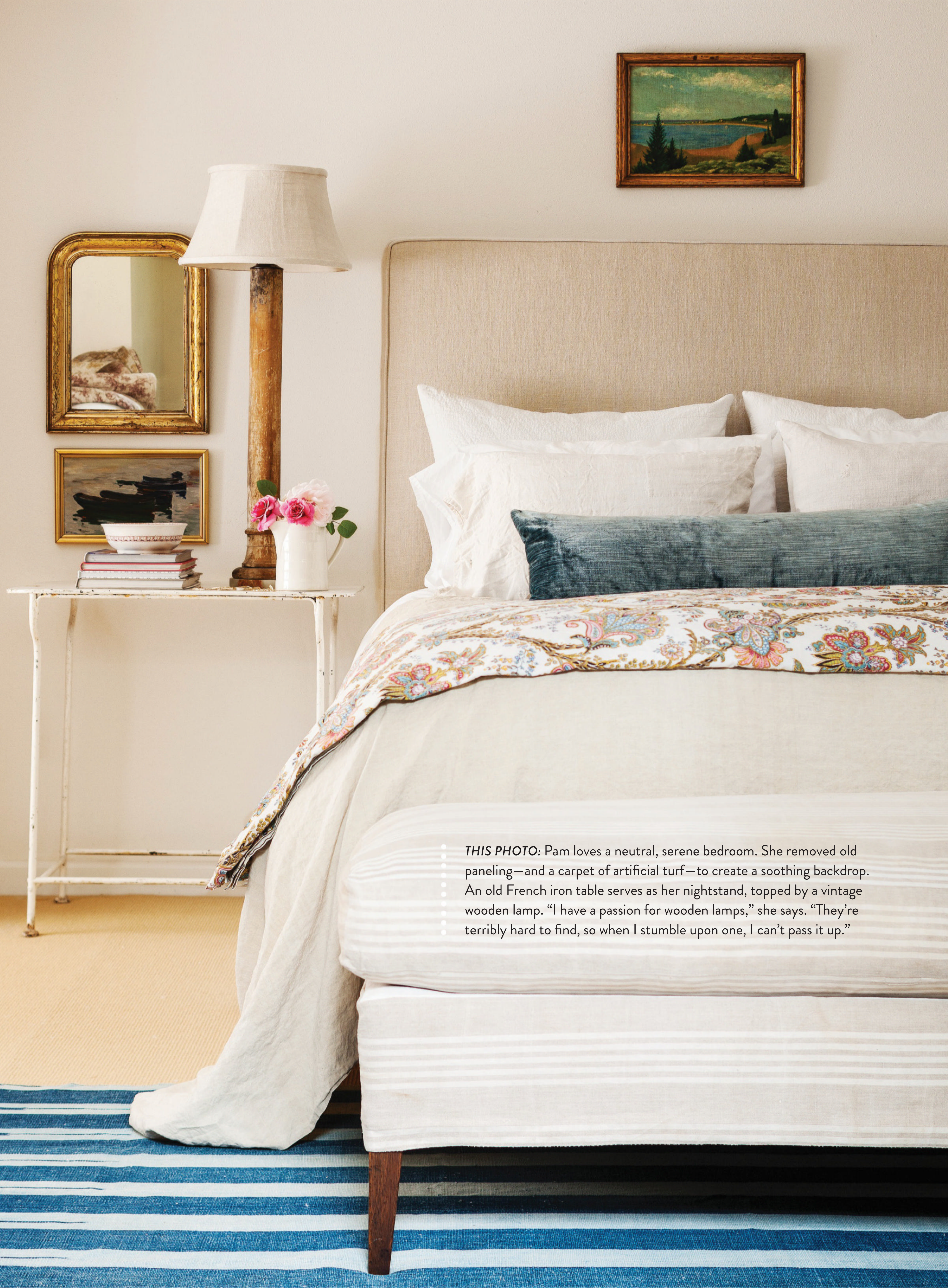
COLLECT IT

As organic, unprocessed fabrics weave their way through our rooms, it's natural there will be a newfound interest in antique homespun textiles woven of cotton, wool, and flax. Homespun is used as a general term for home-loomed, country textiles. Often salvaged from bed linens, drapery, and tablecloths from Europe where hand-looming was more popular, authentic homespun has a nubby, irregular weave and shows some wear.

So, she made an offer, got the property, and embarked on a fast, affordable remodel—during the holidays, her busiest retail season of the year. "My store was only two years old, and money was tight, so I had to find a way to do it simply and on a strict budget," says Pam, who decided to focus on removing the things that distracted from the home's unique architecture. "I needed to correct some of the unfortunate moments such as the too-tiny kitchen outfitted in pink and black tile, the master bedroom carpeted in AstroTurf. And then I could focus on highlighting the home's most stunning moments—the original cedar ceilings and floors and the seamless transitions between inside and outside."

She tried what seemed like a hundred white paint samples before settling on the perfect shade for her clean slate, C2 Paint's Coconut White. "I'm very much a purist," she says. "I like lots of white. It's nice to have a clean backdrop for all of my collections." Her treasures include ironstone, vintage paintings, reams and reams of old textiles (especially of the French variety), American flags, wooden lamps, and whales in all shapes and sizes. "I've been collecting antiques since I was a child," she says. "My uncle introduced me to antiquing and I haven't ever stopped. Nothing in my house is new, except for my appliances. And nothing in my house matches because, to me, matchy-matchy lacks personality. I think every piece in a house should tell a story, and you just don't find those stories in catalogs. It takes time, and living with empty corners, until you find that one perfect thing that you want to have with you forever because you love it so." ◆

For resources, see page 94.



THIS PHOTO: Pam loves a neutral, serene bedroom. She removed old paneling—and a carpet of artificial turf—to create a soothing backdrop. An old French iron table serves as her nightstand, topped by a vintage wooden lamp. "I have a passion for wooden lamps," she says. "They're terribly hard to find, so when I stumble upon one, I can't pass it up."

DOMESTIC ART

ABOVE LEFT: *Pam relaxes at home in her midcentury modern ranch.* ***ABOVE:*** *When Pam bought the house, the back patio was a figure-eight concrete pad, which she promptly had blasted and replaced with traditional square pavers. The furniture and fabrics are vintage. "This space is an easy extension of the house," she says.* ***LEFT:*** *A Nantucket-inspired garden surrounds Pam's midcentury modern Pacific Northwest house; she loves the juxtaposition of styles.*

road trip TO ROUND TOP

Mark your calendars, enlist your friends, and grab a truck—the bargains are Texas-size at Round Top Antiques Show! Designer and veteran showgoer Courtney Warren has the inside scoop on how to shop this flea market mecca like a pro.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY JESSICA BRINKERT HOLTAM **PHOTOGRAPHED BY** BLAINE MOATS

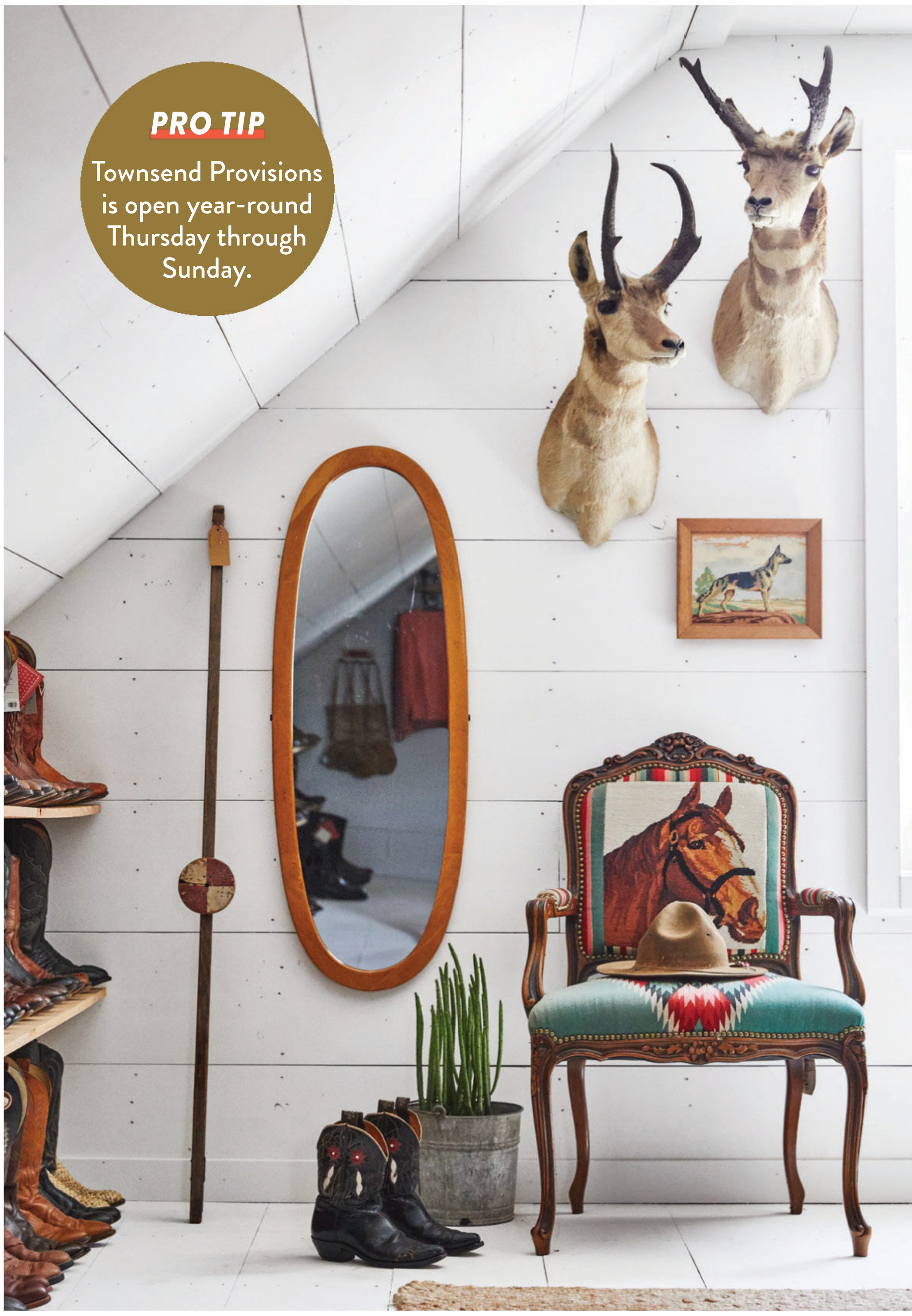
> “ROUND TOP IS LIKE *Disney World for flea market* ENTHUSIASTS.”
>
> — **DESIGNER** COURTNEY WARREN

Round Top Basics

THE SHOW: Like so many things in Texas, the Round Top Antiques Show is big. You can plan on plenty of walking, but you’ll need a car to navigate among the venues. That’s because “Round Top” (as it’s commonly known) refers not to a single show but rather to a series of shows hosted in fields, barns, tents, and storage units within a 15-mile area.

WHERE: The heart of the event runs through the town of Round Top, Texas, but venues stretch along miles of Hwy. 237. Neighboring towns of Warrenton, Burton, Carmine, and Fayetteville all host a piece of the action.

WHEN: Twice a year, in the spring (usually end of March into early April) and the fall (end of September into early October), although a smaller winter weekend show (in January) has started to gain momentum. The show dates typically span a two-week period, but because each venue is privately owned and operated, not all vendors show at the same time. Check out the Round Top Antiques Show Guide at *roundtop.com* for a list of what’s open when during each show.



PRO TIP

Townsend Provisions is open year-round Thursday through Sunday.

TOWNSEND PROVISIONS
OPEN

TOWNSEND PROVISIONS

As in a mercantile store of old, you'll find a little of everything—and a whole lot of vintage cowboy boots—in this quaint gift shop. "I first stopped in this converted 1920s farmhouse to see the insane vintage boot collection, but I quickly fell in love with all the amazing odds and ends gathered by owners Nick Mosley and Ryann Ford-Mosley," Courtney says. "Now I never miss a chance to see what's on offer. There are always quirky seasonal vintage items as well as unusual takes on traditional gift ideas, such as T-shirts, candles, napkins, and pet toys."

Townsend Provisions, 101 Bauer Rummel Rd., Round Top; *townsendprovisions.com*

Holly
CHEER

Courtney Warren

Planning Makes Perfect

Dallas-based interior designer Courtney Warren (pictured below left) makes a twice-a-year pilgrimage to Round Top. Her pro tips will help you make the most of your time.

NAVIGATING THE SHOW

The town of Round Top, population 90, swells to accommodate anywhere from 50,000 to 100,000 people during show weeks, so expect congestion and a slow drive along a two-lane highway—especially on weekends. Plan your stops so you can traverse the road from one direction over the course of the day, rather than going back and forth in both directions.

SHOPPING EARLY

Some fields start setting up weeks before the official show dates, so it's possible to start shopping early at several places without the crowds. Accommodations and meals are easier to come by during this time as well. Just know that several venues will not be open for trading yet.

GETTING IT HOME

Bring a tape measure—and a truck if you can. "I've learned to plan for the fact that I'll fall in love with something big and need a way to get it home," Courtney says. However, if road-tripping with hauling room is not an option, many of the vendors can connect you with a shipping option.

PACKING YOUR GEAR

The only thing predictable about the weather at Round Top is that it won't stay the same. You can plan on it being hot and steamy one moment, rainy and muddy the next. "I chart stops by the day's forecast, looking for shade or cover as needed," Courtney says. "I bring an outfit—and shoes—for every type of condition."

PAYING YOUR WAY

Have cash on hand. Some sellers take cards, but most deals are done the old-fashioned way. Some fields also have entrance fees or small parking fees. Be prepared to pay for parking multiple times. It's simply too far to walk between venues.

BOOKING A ROOM

Book lodgings in advance. It's a good rule of thumb to reserve lodgings at least half a year ahead, if not a full year if you want to stay anywhere in the close vicinity of Round Top. With only a few lodging options in Round Top proper, most people stay in outlying towns. You can even road-trip in for the day from Austin or Houston.

ROYERS ROUND TOP CAFÉ

For more than 35 years, Royers has been serving up hearty American-style comfort meals and sweet slices of pie to hungry showgoers.

"Located right off Main Street, Royers is a beloved Round Top institution," Courtney says. "It's a funky old diner with walls that are covered with all manner of memorabilia, but its food is no joke." You may come for the pie—apple, blueberry-lemon, Texas Trash, or Junkberry, to name a few—but you won't be disappointed in the meals. Start with the Cheesy Double Dip appetizer, then dig into the Grilled Shrimp BLT or The Nashville, a deliciously hot chicken sandwich.

Royers Round Top Café, 105 Main St.,
Round Top; *royersroundtopcafe.com*

ROYERS
ROUND·TOP·
·CAFE·

YERS ROUND TOP

PRO TIP

Royers doesn't take reservations, and its compact dining area fills up quickly during show weeks. If you can't stomach the wait, stroll around the corner to their sister spot, Royers Pie Haven, where you can enjoy a sweet slice of pie and a crisp iced tea under the shade of oak trees or get it to go.

MARKET HILL

This large warehouse-style venue hosts what are essentially a series of pop-up designer showrooms showcasing distinctive global finds.

"The price tags aren't considered thrifty, but the finds have been curated, so everywhere you look, you'll find unique pieces with a story to tell," Courtney says. Crates full of old tiles imported from Europe, weathered cutting boards, gilded mirrors, antler chandeliers, midcentury modern chairs, confit pots, English china, African masks, and new upholstered pieces all bump shoulders in showroom displays that reflect the discerning eye of their creators.

Market Hill, 1542 Hwy. 237, Round Top;
markethillroundtop.com

PRO TIP

With AC, an on-site restaurant, and covered walkways between stores, this is the place to wander when the weather has you beat. Some showrooms are also open by-appointment-only outside of show weeks.

BAR W FIELD

Weekend flea market junkies will feel right at home in this wide-open field with all manner of treasures spread out on trestle tables, stacked in corners, and spilling out of tented booths.

"This field offers a lot of variety in smaller wares," Courtney says. "Some of it's old, and some of it's reproduction; it's a real mishmash of interesting objects. You can't judge a book by its cover here—you have to really dig in and investigate. Most booths are unassuming and not particularly organized." Less cultivated booths add up to savings for shoppers with the patience to sort through piles of finds. This is Courtney's go-to place for affordable decorative items, such as old children's books, rusty kitchen scales, creamware dishes, Scrabble letters, old typewriters, sports pennants, tole trays, and retro Christmas decor.

Bar W Antiques & Collectibles, 4001 S. Hwy. 237, Warrenton; *facebook.com/barwf*

PRO TIP

Vendors often stay on-site in campers behind their stalls, so this field is a great place to shop early and late. Just plan to wear shoes you can comfortably walk in, as vendors are spread out over 25 acres of uneven ground that you can bet will be either dry and dusty or muddy and soggy, depending on the weather.

Collect It!

Our tour guide Courtney Warren shares a few of her favorite collectibles to hunt for at Round Top—and how to turn them into engaging home decor.

OLD SILVER PLATTERS

Look for different silhouettes and sizes, and a shape that is easy to hang, then group a collection on a wall as art.

◆

SCRABBLE LETTERS, DOMINOES, AND ALPHABET BLOCKS

Pile these in glass jars or a bowl on a coffee table to add personality that you can also play with.

◆

METAL BASKETS

Up your storage game by using old metal baskets to stylishly corral items in a mudroom, game room, or pantry.

◆

OLD TYPEWRITERS

"I love the nostalgia of these," Courtney says. You can set one on your desk and use it to hold notes or even photos.

◆

VINTAGE CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The covers are often works of art in and of themselves. Frame them to create unique retro art or use them as risers on bookshelves to give kids' treasures a pretty lift.

◆

SPORTS PENNANTS

Speak to the sports fanatic in your family in a tasteful way by hanging a series of fun, boldly colored pennants in a swag—or sewing them into a quilt.

BLUE HILLS

Francophiles and lovers of fine European antiques won't want to miss a stop into this field's pole barns, which house an abundance of curated furnishings from abroad.

Oriental rugs, vintage textiles, European art, antique maps and prints, fine bed linens, painted French chests, burled wood bureaus, walnut armoires, elegantly carved tables, Louis XV chairs, and a smorgasbord of imported small goods fill out 80,000 square feet of shopping space. "Given the quality of antiques sold, Blue Hills is a higher-end place to shop," Courtney says. "But it draws a crowd—and interior designers—because the prices are a steal in comparison to what you'd pay for similar items at an antiques store in a major metro area. Plus, even if I'm not buying, I love to browse because the vendors show off their goods in inspiring mini vignettes."

Blue Hills at Round Top, 1701 Hwy. 237, Carmine; *bluehillsatroundtop.com*

CONFI
MOUTARDE
OIGNONS

Poudres
SEVRAN-LIVRY
PYROXYLÉE
K nº 2

PRO TIP

Free and plentiful parking, along with staffed bathrooms, makes this an easy-in, easy-out destination.

THE GARDEN CO.– FEED & FIREWATER

This elegant yet casual addition to the Round Top dining scene has quickly won a loyal following who flock to sit outside on the patio under sheltering oak branches dripping with fairy lights.

"This place had me at my first bite of a Korean street taco," Courtney says. "It's beautifully designed inside and out, and the food is light and refreshing after a long day shopping the show."

The Garden Co.–Feed & Firewater, 104 W. Wantke St., Round Top; *thegardencoandcafe.com*

> “YOU CAN PULL OVER ANYWHERE AND FIND SOMETHING INTERESTING. IF YOU EXPLORE, YOU’LL *find things off the beaten path* ALL THE TIME. THE SHOW IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING AND GROWING.”
>
> — COURTNEY WARREN

PRO TIP

Park at Bar W Field and walk across the street to explore this area.

CHICKEN RANCH

Head to this smaller field to find a trove of affordable architectural salvage.

“Round Top is known for its offerings of old doors and windows, and this field is a great spot to find a few gems at more reasonable prices,” Courtney says. “There’s a definite Shabby Chic feel to the wares.” You’ll be romanced by chippy paint corbels, crystal chandeliers, brocade chairs, white ironstone, old porch spindles, shutters, and bins piled along with old house letters, patinaed doorknobs, and rusty hooks.

Chicken Ranch, 4150 S. Hwy. 237, Round Top;
facebook.com/chickenranchwarrenton

◆ For resources, see page 94.

More Venues to Explore

ZAPP HALL

Like a year’s worth of Saturday garage sales rolled into one venue, this field—home to roughly 75 vendors—is a picker’s dream.

Zapp Hall, 4217 S. Hwy. 237,
Warrenton; *zapphall.com*

◆

MARBURGER FARM ANTIQUE SHOW

A favorite among A-list interior designers and treasure hunters, this large show is beloved for the breadth and quality of its mix—which includes European antiques, midcentury modern furniture, folk art, and a trove of small accessories. With 350-plus vendors spread over 43 acres, you can easily spend a day here.

Marburger Farm Antique Show,
2248 Hwy. 237, Round Top;
roundtopmarburger.com

◆

EXCESS I AND II

Housed in tin barns and a gaggle of storage units that simply roll up their garage doors to let the flea finds spill out, these venues (which are right across the street from each other) offer a wonderful hodgepodge of items at affordable prices. Expect to find a highly curated booth brimming with architectural salvage next to a booth overflowing with boxes of jumbled vintage jewelry.

Excess I, 3907 Hwy. 237, Round Top;
Excess II, 145 Rohde Rd., Round Top;
excessfield.com

◆

JUNK GYPSY

This retail store owned by former HGTV star sisters Aime and Jolie Sikes marries romantic fantasy with rock ’n’ roll style in a way that’s just plain fun. Secondhand wares mingle happily with new gifts.

Junk Gypsy, 1215 Hwy. 237,
Round Top; *gypsyville.com*

resources

Contact these design and collecting professionals for more information about their services or products.

HUNTER GATHERERS

PAGES 6–9

INTERIOR DESIGNER: Natalie Papier, info@homeecop.com; Instagram @home_ec_op; *homeecop.com.*

A CLEAN SLATE

PAGES 20–29

SHOP OWNER AND HOMEOWNER: Megan Brokman, Farmhouse Supply, 5750 West Center Rd., Linesville, PA 16424; Instagram @farmhouse5540.

CLEVER CONTAINERS

PAGES 30–35

DESIGNER: Megan Hughes, Hughes Nursery; megan@hughesnursery.com.

MEMORY MAKERS

PAGES 36–45

DESIGNER AND HOMEOWNER: Lisa Clark Balke; visit her store, Victory, at 3505 W. 44th St., Minneapolis, MN 55410; 612/926-8200; Instagram @victoryvintage44 and @victoryvintagestyling; *shopvictory.com.*

JADEITE ENVY

PAGES 46–49

COLLECTOR AND STYLIST: Emily Kontos, The Thrifted Table, Beverly Farms, Massachusetts; Instagram @thethriftedtable; *thethriftedtablemarket.com.*

FLORAL DESIGN: Sandra Sigman, Les Fleurs Floral, Home & Garden, Andover, Massachusetts; Instagram @lesfleursviasandra; *lesfleurs.com.*

BAKED GOODS: Topsfield Bake Shop, Topsfield, Massachusetts; *topsfieldbakeshop.com.*

A ROOM IN BLOOM

PAGES 50–57

GREENHOUSE PLANS: Bloom Greenhouse, Muldrow, Oklahoma; *bloomgreenhouseok.com.*

PERFECT LITTLE PARTIES

PAGES 58–65

PAGES 58–59: **Vintage ticking tablecloth**—Textile Trunk; *textiletrunk.com.* **Spongeware pottery, ironstone, Cornishware, enamelware**—Butternut Farm Antiques; Instagram

@butternutfarmantiques. **Small ceramic hens, egg cups, milk bottles, enamelware, egg basket**—Vintage Picks by Jen; Instagram @vintagepicksbyjen.

PAGES 60–61: Tagalong tea tins—Harney & Sons Fine Teas; *harney.com.* **Quilt, oil lamp vintage**—Butternut Farm Antiques; Instagram @butternutfarmantiques. **Teaware vintage**—Vintage Picks by Jen; Instagram @vintagepicksbyjen.

PAGES 62–63: Notebooks—Rite in the Rain; *riteintherain.com.*

PAGES 64–65: Plaid blanket—Pendleton Woolen Mills Inc.; *pendleton-usa.com.* **Plaid picnic ware**—Vintage Picks by Jen; Instagram @vintagepicksbyjen. **Old sign, cutting boards**—Butternut Farm Antiques; Instagram @butternutfarmantiques.

TREASURE TROVE

PAGES 80–87

DESIGNER, SHOP OWNER, AND HOMEOWNER: Pam Robinson; Red Ticking, 2802 E. Madison St., Seattle, WA 98112; 206/322-9890; Instagram @redticking; *redticking.com.*

ROAD TRIP TO ROUND TOP

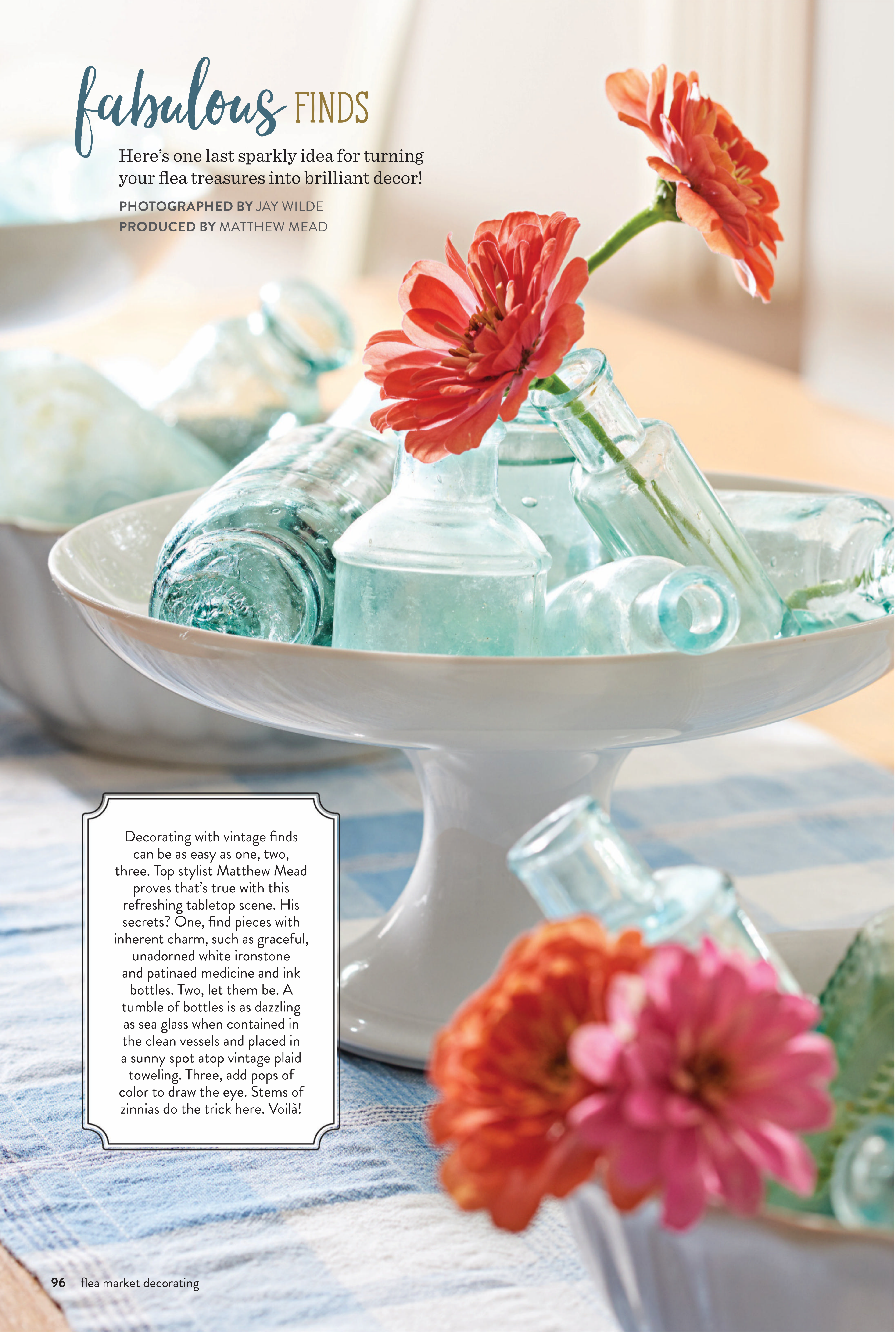
PAGES 88–93

INTERIOR DESIGNER: Courtney Warren Home; hello@courtneywarren.com; Instagram @courtneywarrenhome; *courtneywarren.com*.

fabulous FINDS

Here's one last sparkly idea for turning your flea treasures into brilliant decor!

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAY WILDE
PRODUCED BY MATTHEW MEAD



Decorating with vintage finds can be as easy as one, two, three. Top stylist Matthew Mead proves that's true with this refreshing tabletop scene. His secrets? One, find pieces with inherent charm, such as graceful, unadorned white ironstone and patinaed medicine and ink bottles. Two, let them be. A tumble of bottles is as dazzling as sea glass when contained in the clean vessels and placed in a sunny spot atop vintage plaid toweling. Three, add pops of color to draw the eye. Stems of zinnias do the trick here. Voilà!

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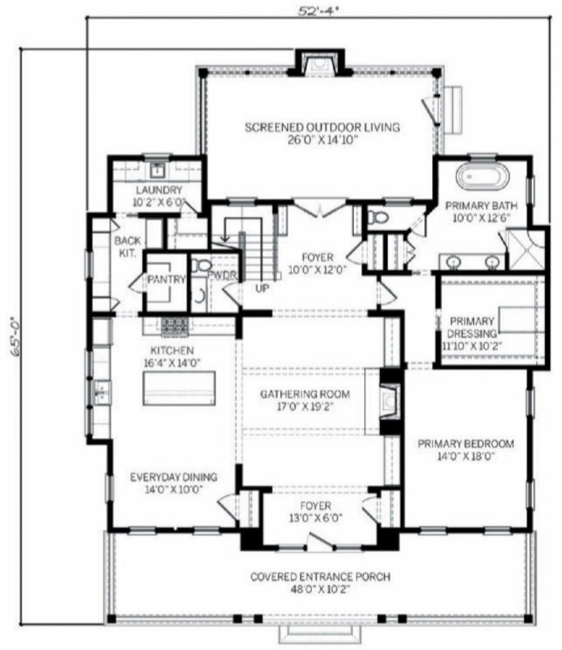
52'-4"
65'-0"
SCREENED OUTDOOR LIVING
26'0" X 14'10"
LAUNDRY
10'2" X 6'0"
BACK KIT.
PANTRY
PWDR
UP
FOYER
10'0" X 12'0"
PRIMARY BATH
10'0" X 12'6"
PRIMARY DRESSING
11'10" X 10'2"
KITCHEN
16'4" X 14'0"
GATHERING ROOM
17'0" X 19'2"
PRIMARY BEDROOM
14'0" X 18'0"
EVERYDAY DINING
14'0" X 10'0"
FOYER
13'0" X 6'0"
COVERED ENTRANCE PORCH
48'0" X 10'2"

LOWCOUNTRY FARMHOUSE PLAN #2000

Design by Court Atkins Group, Bluffton, SC

Classic Southern architecture, breezy colors, and a dose of cozy textures give this new home a comfortably old feeling. To create a timeless look, the plan offers elements like a gracious porch and a wide central passageway. Farmhouse-inspired finishes such as rough-hewn hardwood floors and shiplap-paneled walls enhance the effect.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: **2,754**
BEDROOMS: **4**
BATHS: **3.5**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY J. SAVAGE GIBSON

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